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East edition No 717



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EU vote is not for us but for future generations

AS A society, we are traditionally very poor at embracing change. We fear a shift from the norms of which we have grown comfortable.

Yet change can usher in improvements, it can show us a new way, and the confidence we can gain from that can be empowering.

So too, however, can it disappoint. Like leaving a trusted employer and starting afresh elsewhere, sold on the promises of more responsibility and financial gain, only to discover it fails to deliver and you rue what you left behind.

The EU referendum puts us at that crossroads.

Despite all our hopes, there was no reasoned debate on the issues. What we have witnessed over the recent months has shamed our politicians and seen a scare-mongering and negativity to campaigning which we have rarely witnessed before.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

The result has been that almost any point made by either side was immediately met by a volley of opposition. Who to believe? Who to trust?

What we can be sure of, is that the vote we make on Thursday is going to make a significant difference to not just our future, but to those of our children and grandchildren.

It is not one which should be made on any affection for any particular politician, but by level-headed, sensible thought and consideration.

What our vote should not be is motivated by fear. We like to think we see through our politicians, but both sides have done almost nothing but spin figures in a way to suit their narrative, and dismiss those that do not. Seek instead to look at the positives of each campaign and remember it is future generations who will have to live with the choice we make.

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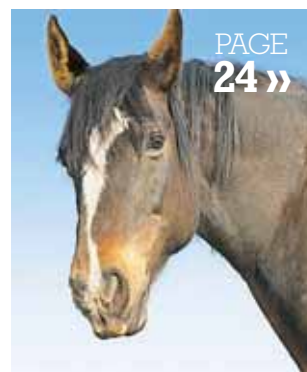
Tribute show to both Abba and the BGs



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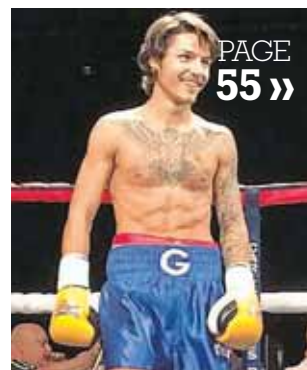
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HOW TO CONTACT US...

Publisher: Simon Irwin
Email simon.irwin@archant.co.uk

Editor: Chris Britcher
Email chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

Address: Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP

Editorial: News: 01233 653475

Sport/Leisure: 01233 653479

Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Advertising:

Jobs/Notices: 01233 653461

Business: 01233 653461

Email appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

Retail/Leisure/Motors: 01233 653461

Email sales@kosmedia.co.uk

Distribution: 01233 653470

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Pressure grows on trust over 'culture of bullying'

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

PRESSURE continues to grow on the South East Coast Ambulance Service (Secamb) as a letter from an independent regulator revealed a "culture of bullying and harassment" at the trust.

It is the latest controversy following revelations in October that the ambulance service which covers Sussex and Surrey as well as Kent, had delayed sending help for certain calls to allow extra time for patient assessments.

Chairman Tony Thorne resigned in March, before chief executive Paul Sutton also left the trust last month.

Now, a letter from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to the trust revealed a number of concerns in the way Secamb operates.

Head of hospitals inspection Alan Thorne, who wrote the letter, said: "We have received a number of calls from staff following the inspection indicating a continuing culture of bullying and harassment. "These calls support some of the evidence from our interviews



CRITICISM: Secamb has been slammed in a letter from the Care Quality Commission

during inspection and on initial findings appears to be linked with inconsistent application of human resource policies – notably, but not exclusively, sickness and return to work.

"The number of outstanding grievances within the executive team itself is also a serious concern."

Mr Thorne also said management roles at all levels "lack clarity and as a result accountability is

absent in many areas" and that a number of policies and maps were out-of-date.

A spokesperson for the Department of Health said: "We await the full report from the CQC, but it seems clear that poor leadership at the South East Coast Ambulance Service has put safety at risk, which is totally unacceptable – patients and staff deserve better.

"The chief executive and the chairman at the trust have

recently been replaced and we expect to see immediate improvements made."

NHS Improvement is working with the trust to address concerns and issues that the CQC has raised this week.

A spokesperson for the trust said it was keen to be open and transparent about the issues it is currently dealing with and awaits the outcome of the CQC's full report.

Margate lifeboat crews celebrate 50th birthday of revolutionary boat

THE RNLI in Margate is this week celebrating 50 years since its innovative inshore lifeboat was launched.

The arrival of the boat was to greatly enhance the local rescue service and save more than 500 lives over the next half-century.

In 1966, the RNLI was introducing fast rapid-response Inshore Rescue Boats and given the town's popularity with bathers and users of small recreational, craft Margate was an obvious choice to receive what at the time was a revolutionary development.

The IRB supplemented the larger offshore lifeboat and the provision of the two vessels has proved to be the ideal combination to serve the local seafaring community since.

The first call for 'D99' came on June 19, 1966, when the boat assisted a yacht on the Nayland Rock in refloating on the rising tide.

Early in the morning, while setting out for a day's fishing the lifeboat

coxswain Alf Manning sighted a yacht aground on the Nayland Rock.

Les Manning was one of the original members of the crew of the new lifeboat and remembers those early days which were a lot different to the modern set-up: "Compared to the modern inshore lifeboat, fifty-years ago things were a little more basic.

"The lifeboat carried a crew of just two [compared to three now] and the protective clothing was very basic.

"Comparing with the modern drysuits and PPE worn today we reminisce by telling today's crew that we used to wear bin liners.

"There was also no radio on board in those days so we carried a supply of coins and would go ashore and ring the coastguard for updates if we could not locate the casualty."

Paul Hodson, Margate Lifeboat operations manager, said: "The arrival of the inshore lifeboat greatly enhanced the service the station was able to offer."

University pulls plug on EU debate after MP shooting

The University of Kent cancelled its EU referendum debate scheduled for Thursday night following the shooting of Yorkshire MP Jo Cox.

The Question Time-style debate was set to feature an international panel of politicians including Canterbury MP Julian Brazier and Ashford MP Damian Green.

However, the shooting in Leeds on Thursday prompted the

university to pull the plug on the event.

Both Leave and Remain suspended their campaigns as a result of the attack.

Full reaction to Mrs Cox's death and tributes from a number of MPs from across the county, including Mr Green, can be found on page 12 of this week's newspaper.

Arsonist jailed for torching home with two kids inside

AN ARSONIST who set a house on fire with two children inside has been jailed for more than seven years.

Christopher Harrison, of Langlands Drive, Dartford, poured petrol through his former partner's front door and set it alight in September last year.

His partner and two young children were all asleep inside.

Fortunately the woman was awoken by a smoke alarm and discovered the fire on the inside of the front door.

Outside, obscenities had been written on a window, items of clothing had been burnt on the floor and the woman's garden gate had been damaged.

Neighbours spent nearly 10 minutes helping to put out the fire.



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Tributes flood in for teen who fell from roof

FRIENDS of a student who died on Sunday after falling from the roof of a Folkestone shopping centre have paid tribute to a "beautiful girl" who was "all smiles and full of laughter".

Kent Police was called at 4.47pm on Sunday following reports a woman had fallen from the Asda building in Bouverie Place, and she was pronounced dead at the

scene. The death is not being treated as suspicious.

Friends this week set up a tribute page on Facebook for the girl, named locally as Luhana Barros, who attended Brockhill Park Performing Arts College..

Carley Clarke said: "She was at Pride on Saturday, I can't believe she was all smiles and full of laughter, and now she isn't."



PARLIAMENT: Home of our MPs

Which of our MPs is most responsive?

TRACEY Crouch is the second most responsive MP in the UK, according to a league table.

The Chatham and Aylesford MP responded to 94 per cent of correspondence from constituents submitted via Write To Them since the 2015 General Election – second only to fellow Conservative Jason McCartney.

It puts Mrs Crouch ahead of any other MP in the county, with Dartford's Gareth Johnson next best ranked in 25th, responding 85 per cent of the time, and Damian Green of Ashford coming 39th, responding 82 per cent of the time.

Of the county's 17 representatives, seven of them responded to less than half of the correspondence received through Write To Them.

The least responsive Kent MP was Gillingham and Rainham's Rehman Chishti who responded to just 24 per cent of concerns.

Mrs Crouch told KoS: "I have always tried to prioritise my constituents and that means responding as quickly as possible to people's concerns and complaints.

"I couldn't do it without my brilliant support team who work extremely hard to support me in my constituency and parliamentary work."

Farage admits he could quit as he clashes with Geldof on River Thames

By David Hughes

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

NIGEL Farage has hinted he could quit politics if the country backs Brexit next week.

The Ukip leader, who lives in Westerham and stood for election in South Thanet last year, said that despite the encouraging polls, the Leave camp were "a very long way" from winning the referendum.

"I might go and get a real job, you never know," he said.

"I haven't thought about it. Everything in my career in politics has been about next Thursday, everything.

Asked whether he would serve in a post-Brexit government with Boris Johnson in charge, he said: "I want to win next Thursday. God knows what comes afterwards, who know what happens to the Tory party afterwards?"

"Who knows what happens to the Labour Party afterwards, to Ukip?"

Despite a string of polls giving a



BATTLE: Two sides clashed

lead to Leave, Mr Farage said he was not taking the result for granted.

"There's been momentum towards the Leave side in the last fortnight, great, but we are a very long way from winning this.

"There is a lot to be done."

Mr Farage also engaged in a war of words with Faversham rock star Bob Geldof as rival fleets of boats backing the Leave and Remain camps clashed on the River Thames.

Addressing Mr Farage over the PA system, Geldof said: "You are no fisherman's friend."

He said that while Mr Farage was on the European Parliament fisheries committee he attended just one out of 43 meetings.

"You are a fraud, Nigel. Go back down the river because you are up one without a canoe or a paddle."

Speaking on the Thames, Mr Farage branded the protest "just disgusting".

He added that Mr Geldof was "deeply ignorant about how the Common Fisheries Policy works" and "it ill befits multi-millionaires coming to drown out ordinary men and women from the fishing industry who have come to have a fair say".

See pages 19-23 for full EU referendum coverage.

Free entry for all at Margate theme park

DREAMLAND theme park in Margate has become free to enter from this weekend.

Instead you'll need to pay to ride the range of rollercoasters and other attractions at the park.

It comes just weeks after administrators took over the park after the previous company running the venue was overwhelmed by debts.

To coincide with its first anniversary, guests will be able to enter the park at no charge and choose to pay to ride or purchase a wristband for unlimited rides, which cost £12 for all those measuring over 1.25m and £8 for those under.

A spokesman said: "The great thing is that Dreamland is now open to everyone each weekend and during holidays.

"Non-riders who wish to visit the park and see our vintage ride collection, laugh at the on-park entertainments team or enjoy performances on the bandstand, can do so at no cost."

There will also be weekend passes for those staying over the weekends.

Funeral planned for missing grandfather

A FUNERAL will take place later this month for a grandfather who went missing from his home in Strood.

One Direction star Louis Tomlinson was among those appealing for help in locating Nigel Knights after he disappeared, having last been seen at Morrison's supermarket on May 9. His body was recovered at Strood Pier in Rochester nine days later.

He had recently flown back from Lanzarote to attend a christening in Medway.

A funeral has been arranged for June 30, with a 2pm service at Medway Crematorium taking place before a wake at Cuxton Social Club and a fundraising page has been set up to raise money for a bench in his honour.

His family said in a statement: "Please instead of sending flowers can you consider making a donation towards a memorial bench in Nigel's memory which will be placed in his home town of Cuxton.

"Any funds left over will be donated to a charity close to Nigel's heart."

Smokers vote with their butts on Euros

SMOKERS in Swale are having their say on England's chances at Euro 2016 as part of an innovative scheme to tackle littering.

Six 'ballot bins' have been installed across the borough to encourage smokers to dispose of their cigarettes by voting with their butts.

The bins give users the choice of two answers for a question displayed on the bin - which currently asks if the Three Lions will make the semi-finals in France - with clear windows showing the results of the public opinion poll by the size of the pile of fag-ends.

The bins are being used as part of a joint initiative between Swale Borough Council and charity, Litter Angels. The first question posed on the bins asked if people thought Wayne Rooney should start in the England team; smokers voted he shouldn't.

David Simmons, cabinet member for environmental and rural affairs at the council, said: "The reaction so far has been positive, and we're hoping by trying to tackle litter in this innovative way, we'll see a big difference to the amount of cigarette butts dropped."

Hunt says struggling hospital beginning to 'turn a corner'

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

HEALTH secretary Jeremy Hunt says "things are really turning a corner" at Medway Maritime Hospital after he visited the county last week.

Mr Hunt is keen to visit trusts in special measures that are showing signs of improvement, with Medway NHS Foundation Trust being a case in point.

In January 2016, the latest inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the independent regulator for care services, revealed the Gillingham hospital was still struggling with a number of key issues, with its A&E department "not able to cope" and long waiting times to see doctors.

However, the CQC later found signs of considerable improvement, specifically that the hospital was safer for patients, leadership had improved and staff engagement among senior and middle managers had improved, although low staffing levels are impacting on the morale of frontline staff.

As part of the visit, Mr Hunt met with senior leadership and clinicians, as well as visiting the emergency department, where he was given a tour to highlight the significant changes that have been made recently, including the new minors unit.



IMPROVEMENT: The health secretary was impressed on a visit to Gillingham

He said: "I am very impressed by the progress that has been made."

"Change always takes time, but I feel that things are really turning a corner at Medway."

"We now see a really good partnership with Guy's and St Thomas's hospitals and an almost entirely new management team."

"Talking to doctors and nurses on the frontline, a clear sense of purpose emerges – and while there is more to do, the people of Medway can be very proud of the

progress the hospital has made."

Chief executive of the trust Lesley Dwyer said: "We were absolutely delighted to welcome Jeremy Hunt to Medway."

"He was really pleased to witness the changes we are making at first-hand, and was very complimentary about our staff and the obvious hard work that has gone into the progress we have made so far."

"He is now seeing a very different Medway to the one he saw on his previous visit."

Library shuts for its £650k renovation

DARTFORD's Central Library will close tomorrow (Monday) so work can start on a £650,000 restoration project to mark its centenary.

It means the ornate building will be shut for four months.

Full library services will be shifted to Acacia Sports Hall in the High Street as of July 11.

Kent County Council says the re-opening date will be confirmed later in the year.

Algae forces park to close access to lake

THE main lake at Conningbrook Lakes Country Park in Ashford was temporarily closed after a type of algae, which killed three dogs in Dartford last month, was found to be growing.

Blue-green algae, which occurs naturally, was found growing after the Environment Agency took tests. The water will continue to be monitored.

Hunt for M20 thieves

POLICE are hunting for a gang of men who reportedly assaulted a driver and stole his car after crashing on the M20.

A black BMW collided with two other vehicles on the London-bound carriageway at approximately 3.45pm on Monday.

Anyone with information should call Kent Police on 01622 604100.

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Grammar head reports anti academy parent to the police

THE head teacher of a leading grammar school, caught up in a huge row over now ditched plans to become an academy, says she has reported one parent to the police over 'harassment'.

Jane Robinson, head of Canterbury's Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School (SLGGS), says parent Richard Davis – who has been one of the most vocal opponents to her handling of plans to become an academy – has bombarded her through social media and by email.

It relates to the handling of the school's plan to become an academy which was dropped last week.

In an email to parent Mr Davis, chairman of the school's governors, Dr Ash Rehal, said: "Mrs Robinson has reported your harassment of



her, through social media and by email to her personally, to the police... and has been given the advice that you are to make no more direct contact with her, as any further harassment by you will

mean that the police will bring criminal actions against you."

Mr Davis said: "It would appear if you ask too many difficult questions, Kent Police will be called in by the school for 'harassment'."

Sheps broadens empire with £13.4m take over

FAVERSHAM-based brewer Shepherd Neame is investing some £13.4m to take over more than a dozen pubs in Kent and the south east.

The company announced earlier this week it has exchanged contracts for the purchase of eight freehold pubs in Kent, Sussex and Surrey from rival brewer Enterprise Inns that are operated under lease.

In addition, Shepherd Neame has also agreed to transfer five of its tenanted pubs in Canterbury and Faversham to its managed estate.

Dan Sidders and Gareth Finney, who owned and managed the pubs, will join the company's head office team.

It brings the total number of pubs under Shepherd Neame control to 336, of which 59 will

be operated under management, 270 as tenanted and leased, and seven under commercial free of tie leases.

Chief executive, Jonathan Neame said: "We are delighted to end another successful year with these excellent opportunities to enhance the quality and profile of our pub estate and to bring new skills in to the team."

"We look forward to working with our new partners and see exciting investment opportunities to help build each of their businesses further."

"We also welcome Dan and Gareth to the team. We have long admired their impressive standards of service and imaginative and high quality food skills and greatly look forward to working with them in the future."

Was beach hut torched?

A PROBE is under way after a beach hut on Tankerton Slopes, near Whitstable, was damaged in a blaze police believe could have been started deliberately.

Damage was caused to the veranda, doors, and shutters of the hut, as well as to items stored inside.

Machine guns stolen

TWO deactivated Browning machine guns, ammunition and other Second World War memorabilia have been stolen from outbuildings in Warden on Sheppey.

The weapons cannot be reinstated, and none of the ammunition is live. Anyone with information should call the police.

Rail safety app launched

A MOBILE app aimed to help commuters in Kent and take action if they think someone might be at risk on or near the railway has been launched.

Rail505 will enable passengers to make a report if they are worried about someone and a member of staff is not available.

Man stole from barrister

A THIEF has been convicted for stealing a mobile phone in court – from his own defence barrister.

Bobby Heath, 26, who is serving a sentence for an unrelated matter, refused to leave prison and was convicted on Monday and faces sentencing on June 21.

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Top Three Stories



1. Cops stop fans at ports

Supporters prevented from going to France

2. Engine fire on train

Passengers were evacuated on Friday

3. £1m stolen from DfE

Edward Chapman bought Rochester home

The Essential Guide:



...to the EU referendum

Everything you need to know about Thursday's big vote



FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: Kent celebrates the Queen's 90th birthday last weekend. See pages 28 and 29 of this week's paper for full coverage

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Top Three Blogs



1. Lorry lane required

Why HGVs drive us round the bend

2. Mental health campaigns

So many of them are missing the point

3. Straight outta uni

A young man's first step in the real world

Results of the KoS Online Poll

Will you visit Dreamland in Margate this summer?

- 1 Yes - 42%
- 2 I've already been - 0%
- 3 I'm thinking about it - 17%
- 4 No - 41%

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Recruitment agencies cashing in on teacher shortages says union

With schools struggling to fill vacancies and the number of supply teachers on the rise, the NUT fears too much money is leaving the education sector but one Elham resident believes she has the answer...

TAXPAYERS' money that should be going into the education sector is being pocketed by recruitment agencies profiteering from a shortage of teachers, according to the country's largest teaching union.

The recruitment crisis affecting the education sector has received widespread media attention in recent years, but the role of private agencies in compounding the problem has largely gone under the radar.

With schools' education budgets being squeezed, many are looking to newly qualified staff that cost less to employ than experienced workers.

In doing so, they overlook a large pool of talented individuals who are then forced to rely on agencies to secure employment as supply teachers.

Yet these agencies take a considerable amount of money from schools and a large cut of teachers' salaries.

Bridget Chapman, head of the National Union of Teachers' (NUT) supply teacher network, told Kent on Sunday: "There is no end of capable teachers but they are being driven out of the profession by an increasing workload and an inadequate schools budget."

"More experienced teachers cost more, and across Kent there are a lot of experienced teachers doing supply work, but that is not a good deal for anyone."

"What you are getting at the moment is lots of schools filling in with supply teachers who are excellent, well qualified and experienced, but they are not being given a contract."

"Supply teacher agencies see their jobs as being to charge schools as much as possible and teachers as little as possible, and the money is being siphoned off of the education system."

In February, the National Audit Office revealed growing evidence of teacher shortages, with the recorded rate of vacancies and temporarily filled positions doubling from 0.5 per cent of the teaching workforce to 1.2 per cent between 2011 and 2014.

In March, respondents to a survey carried out by The Guardian newspaper said up to 20 per cent of teaching staff in their schools were supply teachers.

Ms Chapman said: "When people talk about a teacher shortage, if schools had the budgets to pay people a proper salary, there would be lots of people taking up those roles."

"In the old days, supply was run by local authorities and they got a daily rate based on their experience."

"When I was doing supply work recently, I would have got a daily rate of £160, but the agencies were offering me £60 – yet they still charge the schools the same amount of money."

"Often schools are charged £250 and much of that does not go to the supply teacher."

"Supply teachers still give it their best shot when they go into schools, but of course it has an effect on morale."

"When they were paid by the local

authority they had access to the teachers' pension scheme, so even if they didn't have a full pension they would get some paid."

"Private agency teachers do not have access to the pension scheme, so they lose pension rates as well."

Although Canterbury Academy rarely uses supply teachers, executive principal Phil Karnavas is aware of other schools that have been affected.

"In the market model of education one can hardly be surprised that companies seek to make money," he said.

"This ranges from consultants to suppliers, from private tutors to on-line services and it includes supply and recruitment agencies."

One enterprising Kent resident, who formerly worked as a supply teacher in Ashford, Canterbury, Shepway and Thanet, has resolved to tackle the problem.

Helen Thomson, a freelance writer and educational trainer based in Elham, has set up an online database with the intention of bypassing teaching agencies.

She hopes it will enable teachers and schools to get in touch with each other immediately to cover staff shortages.

Mrs Thomson told KoS: "When criminal records checks (CRBs) were brought in, the problem was that one had to be done for every place of employment, which made it really difficult to work across different schools."

"The agencies jumped in to provide a CRB but they exploited the situation by taking a big cut of the supply teachers' salaries."

"A lot of people who were considering supply work say it is not worthwhile. I considered it myself, but when I saw what was being offered, I told them I was not going to be short-changed."

"Hence I am setting up the database and I have been inundated with interest."

Mrs Thomson checks the teachers' references and inputs their information onto the database, with schools carrying out further checks at the interview stage.

"Schools can then find someone available and contact them directly and must pay them on the pay scale."

The project, Supply Teachers Direct, is being run as an ethical business, with schools paying a one-off membership fee to join the database.

"The amount they will pay is peanuts compared to a standard agency fee," she said.

She is hoping to get the database established in Kent and then expand the operation to other parts of the country.

With a centralised database for supply teachers provided by the government in Northern Ireland, it may seem surprising that a similar service is not already available in England.



SHORTAGE: A dearth of teachers in some subjects means many schools are relying on agency staff to plug the gap



DISPUTE: (l to r) The NUT's Bridget Chapman, the REC's Kate Shoesmith and former teacher Helen Thomson

According to Ms Chapman, the recruitment agencies spend a lot of money lobbying the government, which may explain their failure to roll out such a system.

When contacted by KoS, a Department for Education spokesperson commented: "Supply teachers provide a valuable role for schools, offering flexibility, and we trust heads and governors, who best understand the needs of their schools, to decide how they recruit and deploy staff."

"We want all schools to be able to recruit the teachers they need and are investing over £1.3 billion up to 2020 to attract new teachers into the profession."

"To support them, we are also creating a simple web tool to enable schools to advertise vacancies for free, and a new national teacher vacancy website so that aspiring and

current teachers can find posts quickly and easily – enabling the market to work better and reducing the burden on schools."

The DfE was not able to confirm that supply teachers would be covered by the tool, although it claimed the intention is for all types of vacancy to be covered.

Kate Shoesmith, head of policy at the Recruitment and Employment Confederation (REC), rejected the NUT claims and said she was not aware of any profiteering going on among teacher recruitment agencies.

"Agencies supply people who are fully qualified at very short notice, with a number of employees working from 5am until 8am when staff phone in sick and we need to find a suitable, vetted supply teacher," she said.

"What agencies charge as a mar-

gin is between 15 and 30 per cent, with the normal rate 20 per cent."

"This goes on advertising the vacancy, making sure they supply the right teacher, and the teacher's national insurance contributions."

Ms Shoesmith added that some of the money is reinvested into the education sector, providing opportunities for professional development and career diversification.

She stated that pay rates for supply teachers are determined by schools and local authorities, and they can depend on a number of factors such as the level of the role, which may account for some discrepancies.

"Some of the figures put around by the NUT are erroneous," she said. "They do not factor in the amount paid back in wages and employment contributions to agency workers."

MPs pull together to pay tribute to Jo Cox and defend democracy

Politicians throughout Kent have spoken of their admiration for the Labour MP shot and stabbed in her Yorkshire constituency this week, and stressed the need to remain open and accessible to us all...

Tom Pyman & Simon Allin

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

MPS from across the county have rallied to pay tribute to their Westminster colleague Jo Cox, and state the importance of ensuring our democracy remains.

The mother of two children aged three and five was attacked by a man reportedly shouting "Britain first" at lunchtime on Thursday in Birstall, West Yorkshire, having held one of her regular constituency surgeries.

It has subsequently raised questions of whether our MPs are too vulnerable to such attacks, but parliamentary representatives up and down Kent say limiting their accessibility to the public would be wrong.

Gareth Johnson, MP for Dartford, admitted that such attacks, or at least the threat of them, are far from uncommon in politics.

"I had a threat to kill my family, which Kent Police dealt with magnificently," he told KoS.

"It illustrates the widespread problem that we do have with these things.

"But it shouldn't be allowed to stop the accessibility of MPs to constituents and we can't allow a small number of people that want to cause us harm to prevent democracy and freedom because it's an important part of our system.

"This kind of interaction we have should never stop.

"But it's not just MPs who are at risk – police officers have been killed in the line of duty and many others put themselves on the frontline.

"I don't know of an MP who hasn't been threatened.

"She was a bright spark for the future and it's absolutely tragic."

However, Dover MP Charlie Elphicke admitted he has been looking into beefing up his security for some time.

"Since Christmas I have been trying to get better security to make it



UNITED: Helen Grant (left) is among a host of our MPs to pay tribute to Jo Cox (right), who was killed in the street in Yorkshire on Thursday afternoon

safer for my team," he said

"IPSA (The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority) need to move far more quickly and take security of MPs far more seriously than they have done to date. The current system is appalling."

He added: "I would often be sitting on the benches listening to Jo speak with great charm, courtesy and persuasiveness.

"She was an utterly charming woman committed to what she believed in, and the campaign she ran on Syria was impressive and effective.

"It is very rare that someone like Jo can make such a difference so quickly in parliament.

"It is just so tragic that she lost her life. Of course I will miss her greatly and so will we all."

Helen Grant, MP for Maidstone, said: "I am still in shock and this will take some time to come to terms with.

"I didn't know her well but on the occasions we were together she shone as a very bright light, with a rare warmth and energy.

"Only last week we were both together as members of the Women's House of Commons tug of war team, raising funds for Macmillan (pictured above).

"There she was at the front of the rope leading the fight.

"We have lost a powerful advocate for many of the things that I hold dear – championing equality and diversity, exposing bigotry and racism, combatting hatred and promoting social cohesion.

"I will continue to fight for those causes fortified by the memory of Jo

and her tragic death."

Helen Whately, who represents Faversham and Mid Kent, added: "There were a number of issues where Jo and I were both quite vocal, particularly in regard to refugees and Syria.

"There's only 650 MPs, there's not many of us, so when something like this happens it's truly shocking.

"There's a lot of anger towards MPs, but we come into this job with the aim of making life better for people and that's often forgotten.

"I hope this will remind people of that and there will be a shift towards a bit more understanding and kindness."

South Thanet MP Craig Mackinlay said: "MPs have a special affinity because we're all finding our own way.

"It's the fact she was cut down just doing her job that's so shocking.

"I look out of my window and see

the Broadstairs library where I hold surgeries – but you don't even think of your vulnerability.

"The way we operate is very different to the US where you'd struggle to find your elected congressman, and our unique democracy has to go on.

"But it's absolutely beyond belief – everyone who met her liked her."

Sir Roger Gale, MP for North Thanet, said: "This is a personal tragedy for her husband and two young children.

"People tend not to understand that Westminster is a family and we feel it as a family.

"You can't make it more secure. If we do the job in the way that we need to do it then we are to some extent at risk like everyone in public life."

Ashford MP Damian Green said: "I have had threats in the past. Someone refused to leave my constituency office, so we have altered security.

"It is not possible to do this job as an MP without making yourself available to the public. It is part of the job.

"I met Jo on a few occasions when she was an MP and what was obvious from the start was that she was passionate and enthusiastic and also really likeable.

"As well as a personal tragedy it is also a great political loss; she would have been a very formidable political figure."

Tracey Crouch, MP for Chatham and Aylesford, said: "Jo Cox was a well respected MP on all sides of the House.

"She had championed some incredibly important issues and achieved much in a such a short amount of time.

"My heart goes out to her husband and young children as well as her wider family, friends and the constituents she served so loyally."



TRIBUTE: Flowers were left in her memory in her constituency

JO COX MP...

Jo Cox, a Remain supporter, was elected to the seat of Batley and Spen at last year's general election.

Shortly after the attack, her husband Brendan Cox tweeted a picture of his wife next to the River Thames, where they lived on a houseboat.

She graduated from Cambridge University in 1995 and worked as an adviser for former Labour prime minister Gordon Brown's wife Sarah, and Baroness Kinnock. Mrs Cox was a vocal advocate



for the victims of the Syrian civil war and abstained in last autumn's contentious vote on allowing British

military action in Syria and also set up the All Party Parliamentary Group on Syria with Conservative MP Andrew Mitchell.

Mr Cox, a former adviser to ex-prime minister Gordon Brown, spent Wednesday campaigning for the UK to remain in the EU.

He posted photographs of himself and the couple's children travelling along the Thames in a dinghy during a counter-protest against a pro-Brexit flotilla of vessels.



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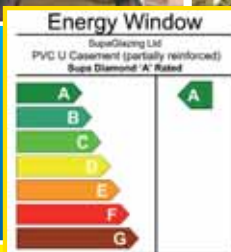
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Do bookshops hold the key to town revival?

As the high street adjusts to a future where cafe culture and independent stores are their new life line, could small book retailers prove to have the key ingredient to allow our town centres to flourish in the next chapter of their existence?

By Simon Allin

simon.allin@archant.co.uk

MODERN technology has done many marvellous things, and enriched our lives in numerous ways. But it can also be blamed for a devastating impact on key parts of what were once anchor sites on our high streets.

Take record shops – today they are a rarity where once you could barely move without tripping over an Our Price, HMV or Virgin.

And then, of course, there's the independent book shop.

Both have found so many hounded out of town by the triple threat of supermarkets slashing prices, internet retailers doing the same, and digital versions becoming so popular and available without having to leave the comfort of your sofa.

Record Store Day is the annual 'event day' to try and encourage us out of iTunes and Spotify and into good old fashioned bricks and mortar shops.

Book sellers go one step further. Because starting this weekend it is Independent Bookshop Week (IBW) – a nationwide campaign to raise their profile.

But the encouraging news is that those already operating in our towns, and who by default have survived the massive impact of cost-cutting and e-reader take-up, say they are facing the future with confidence.

Which is encouraging when the statistics tell a gloomy tale. In 2014, the Booksellers Association revealed the number of independent bookshops on the UK high street had dipped below 1,000 with 500 outlets closing since 2005.

Whitstable has long been celebrated for its independent retailers – its ticket to growth which has avoided it being decimated by the collapse of the big chains, coupled with its popularity as a tourist destination.

Harbour Books, right at the very centre of the uber trendy seaside town, has survived all that has been thrown at it so far. It may have been blessed by its location, but it's still had to fight hard.

Owner Keith Dickson said: "It has obviously changed a lot over recent years, but business is stable, and if anything people are coming back towards buying physical books rather than e-books."

Many are beginning to diversify – doubling up as cafes, pubs, venues and even children's party venues – in order to keep the wolf from the door.

Erica Jones is a popular blogger from Tunbridge Wells whose website thebookshoparoundthecorner.co.uk reviews independent

book sellers, fuelled by a devotion to the printed word.

She believes they could yet play a key role in the regeneration of our high streets.

She explains: "Bookshops are vital for the revival of our high streets. They combine the café culture with independent trading and the most successful bookshops I visit are the ones which get involved in their communities, in particular by hosting events."

"Whether that's by offering a reading group or a range of author visits, readings and book launches, they're bringing people into the community and encouraging them to get involved."

"Then once people have arrived on the high street to take part in the bookshop event they hang around, they realise there's a nice florist nearby, or perhaps a gift shop or even a pharmacy, whatever it is that catches their attention it's an extra shop to go to as a result of that first visit and before they know it they've become regular visitors."

"Bookshops are also vital as businesses: as employers, tax payers, customers of other businesses. It all adds up."

A Bundle of Books, in Herne Bay, has planned a number of events to mark IBW, including craft activities, a book club, and the visit of children's author Abi Elphinstone, whose first book was published last year.

Manager Ellie Addenbrook said: "She tells the children about how she goes travelling and meets all these people who inspire her, and she uses a lot of props."

"The children absolutely love it. And that makes them want to read, and want to return to the shop to find more."

Children's book stores have perhaps fared better than others. But have still been hit hard by online retail competition.

Mr Dickson, from Harbour Books, says one trend worthy of note is that teens – for whom so much of their life has become digital – are still heading in store.

"They take Kindles on holiday but at home a physical book is a more pleasant experience," he explains. "Perhaps most surprising is that teenagers still prefer a physical book."

"Teenagers are just like the rest of us," explains blogger Miss Jones. "They like to feel and experience things and they have a lot less possessions than the rest of us. This means a real, physical book with its turnable pages and beautiful artwork is a thing worth owning."

"Teenagers also understand better than any of us the pleasure to be had in physical experiences – reading a book with its smells, sounds and touch may not compare to having a boyfriend, but it is a very enjoyable experience."

Well, quite.

She adds: "The amount of technology teens



WEEK: A series of events will take place in smaller stores across the county which many say will remind you of the delights of discovering books

are bombarded with also means a physical book can be a welcome diversion from the hundreds of notifications their phone or tablet has to distract them with."

Andrea Don used to run Nickel Books in Sittingbourne town centre. But when her lease expired on her store she opted to switch, instead,

to online sales. It is a move she has mixed views about - highlighting the benefits of a physical presence for such a business.

She plans to run several events to coincide with IBW, including toddler reading times, story times and school visits. She told KOS: "I intend to go back to a shop in the long-run, but at

the moment it is good being flexible.

"Business has been ticking over but it hasn't been flying away. Not having a physical shop is difficult - you have to do a lot more chasing. It is easier having an actual bookshop."

Ms Don is confident the physical book will continue to flourish, as it provides an experi-

ence that cannot be replicated by other media.

"Children like to turn the pages and find out what is coming next and it is much easier when they have the book in front of you," she pointed out. "And it is nicer to cuddle up with the family

Continued from page 15

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– reading together is a lot easier.

“I would not say e-books are in decline. When they were new there was a big increase but now it has evened out.

“It was a novelty, and it is not going away – but it will not take over.

“In a proper bookshop, people can discover something new. When I order a book on a computer, I need to know what I am looking for.

“Nothing beats going into a bookshop and browsing the shelves. Seeing and smelling the book is more real, and you can get into the physical book. You can’t compare to that.”

And it is that which blogger Miss Jones believes lies at the very heart of the argument – the experience.

She explains: “Readers are coming back around to the idea of going out and buying from a real person in a real shop, and making an event of it. I think this is partly because people are once again realising there can be pleasure in this social interaction with a real human being and the many benefits that can bring. The internet may be cheaper but you get what you pay for, and there’s a lot to be said for the enjoyment of the bookshop experience.

“This is emphasised by what happened to record shops. Many of us remember the pleasure of visiting our local record shop to find the latest single or discover new-to-us bands, but now that experience is virtually impossible.

“It’s a sad thing for music fans but a cautionary lesson for readers: we’re realising we don’t want bookshops to go the same way and so when events such as Independent Bookshop Week come along we embrace them as an opportunity to start to reconnect with bookshops. And once people have made that first return visit to a bookshop and realised how easy it is they keep coming back.”

The Booksellers’ Association, which represents independent bookshops, were unable to provide the number of Kent book stores closing, but said it had, like all others, been hit by the digital switch.



REVIVAL: Children continue to seek physical books which allows many stores to survive, but it seems the boom in e-books is now slowing.

A spokesman explained: “There are some excellent bookshops in Kent but that number has reduced in recent years. Independent Bookshop Week is an occasion to remind consumers of great independent bookshops.

“IBW is a reason to visit your local bookshop to see what they have on offer, get advice, meet authors and other book lovers, find the book you didn’t know you needed and join a book-loving community.”

Diversification is certainly seen as a key weapon in the booksellers’ arsenal at staying afloat.



Adds Miss Jones: “Bookshops are always changing and diversification is a big part of that, but some are also making their focus more concentrated.

“For example, Kent is home to two dedicated children’s bookshops, which is part of a popular

move across the country. Little Mouse Books in Maidstone and A Bundle of Books in Herne Bay do cater for adults but the majority of their offering is books for younger readers. This makes them ideal places for ensuring the next generation not only develops a love of reading but also a love of bookshops.

“Both also diversify into hosting activities for those young readers to enrich the bookshop experience, with A Bundle of Books being particularly adventurous by hosting children’s parties.

“Further diversification in Kent – that caters for adults too – can be seen in places like the Sevenoaks Bookshop, which is involved in organising the town’s literary festival and has a café.

“Then in the east, Broadstairs has a secondhand bookshop. The Chapel, that doubles up as a pub.”

“Further afield several bookshops share space with independent music shops; a bookshop in Oxfordshire doubles up as a hat seller and Airbnb (a holiday home website) enables one Scottish bookshop to

rent itself out to holidaymakers – who get to run the bookshop for the duration of their stay.”

The question now is what adventure is in the next chapter for book shops... and will there be a happy ending?



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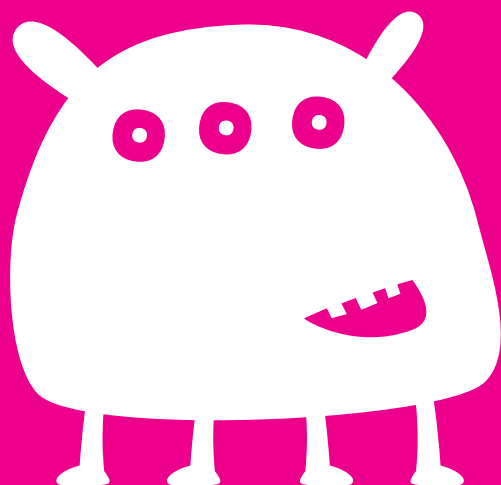
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How does the referendum work?

We've heard endless arguments on both sides of the debate about the impact of the outcome, but very little about how the vote is decided. Here is our guide to what to expect come Thursday, June 23...

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

WITH just days to go until what many describe as the most important public vote in decades, politicians on both sides of the argument are desperately clamouring to push those on the fence over to their side.

There has been weeks of relentless propaganda from both Remain and Leave, but many may be unsure how the EU referendum vote actually works.

Absolute clarity has been sought for months, with even the literal question on the ballot paper being amended to ensure the fairest possible outcome.

The Electoral Commission wanted the original question changed from 'Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union?' to 'Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?'

This is the question, simple in name, if not in outcome, that voters will answer next Thursday, June 23, by putting a cross in either the box marked 'Remain a member of the European Union' or 'Leave the European Union'.

It is now too late to register to vote, although the deadline was in fact extended earlier this month, after the government's website inexplicably crumbled under high demand in the late hours of June 7.

Prospective voters were granted an extension of 48 hours, with campaigners on both sides sensing those that would have missed out could have had a crucial impact on the outcome of the election, with polls suggesting very little between the sides.

Polling stations throughout the country will be open between 7am and 10pm on Thursday with turnout expected to be significantly higher than the despairingly low number of voters making their voice heard in last month's local council and police and crime commissioner (PCC) elections.

Richard Whitman, professor of politics and international relations at the University of Kent, told KoS what he is expecting come June 23.

"I know some returning officers are expecting a turnout as high as 80 per cent," he said.

"It's difficult to gauge but I certainly think it'll be more on par with a general election than the local or PCC elections we've seen recently.

"And I think the turnout will be greater because of the profile."

There's no doubt the media coverage in recent weeks has been relentless, and is likely to ramp up even more in the final few days of campaigning.



ELECTION: Votes will be counted in Kent's 13 districts before a final decision will be announced at the count in Manchester

However, there will still be some sections of the electorate who feel confused, or perhaps even so disillusioned that they've been put off voting altogether.

"Trust is a big issue in elections, but even more so in this one," Professor Whitman added.

"We've created a situation where facts are questionable, which is generally not the case in general elections, when we talk about 'better' or 'worse' rather than contesting figures for economic growth and things like that.

"Typically people struggle to trust politicians and journalists during these periods, and want to hear from experts so they can get a clear answer.

"It goes both ways – the increased profile and awareness may mean more people are likely to vote, but equally, the confusion could be offsetting so it's very difficult to predict.

"But there's still a strong percentage who are unsure and both sides will be desperate to get them on board because ultimately they could prove the difference in terms of how they vote on the day.

"It's going to be very interesting to see what both do in the final week to secure those votes."

The deadline to apply for a postal



vote for the EU Referendum has now passed, as has the deadline to apply to vote by proxy – somebody you trust voting on your behalf.

Some parties have expressed concern that thousands of potential voters will be at Glastonbury festival on Thursday and with no polling booths available on site, they will have missed out on the chance to vote had they not applied for either of the alternative options.

Counting of votes will be done shortly after the polls shut at 10pm on Thursday, and this will be done by local authority area, of which there are 13 in Kent: Ashford, Canterbury, Dartford, Dover, Gravesend, Maidstone, Medway, Sevenoaks, Shepway, Swale, Thanet, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.

Across the UK there will be a total of 382 counts, with each council re-

POLL: Stations are open between 7am and 10pm on Thursday

sponsible for counting the votes in their area.

Results will be declared just the same as other election results, with the returning officer announcing a turnout figure in addition to the number who voted to leave and those that voted to remain.

With an unpredictable turnout, though, most local authorities KoS contacted were unwilling to provide an estimate of when an announcement about the results will be made, but they are all likely to filter through between 2am and 6am on Friday morning, with live coverage offered on our Kent News website.

Results from Kent will be relayed to the south east regional count – one of 11 – that is taking place in Southampton, where they will be validated

and taken as a result for the region as a whole.

That will then be passed to the national counting centre in Manchester, where the final result will be declared, though again, it is difficult to predict when this will be made, particularly if the election is as closely contested as predicted.

Alternatively, however, the result may become clear before the final national result is officially declared by the chief counting officer, as was the case during the vote on Scottish independence.

This is only the third UK-wide referendum: the 1975 referendum was counted the day after polling day, and the 2011 referendum on voting reform was combined with a number of other polls.



'Vote to restore our democracy'

Former London mayor Boris Johnson, *writing exclusively for Kent on Sunday*, on why we should leave

ON JUNE 23 the people of Kent face a once in a lifetime choice: ever closer political union inside a failing EU or freedom outside, trading freely and openly with our European friends and neighbours, and the growth economies of the world. Ask yourselves two questions when it comes to this referendum: what is the best option for the future of this country and what is the safest option? I believe the answer to both is to vote to leave on June 23, and take back control.

"Ah, we can tell you" bellow the Remainers. "The EU creates jobs. Trust us – we know what's best for you". Well tell that to the 51 per cent of young Greeks, the 45 per cent of young Spaniards, who are unable to find work as a result of the economic tornado that is tearing through the Eurozone. The EU is a job destroying machine.

"Ah but the EU brings growth and prosperity" they holler. Well tell that to the hundreds of small businesses here in Kent who are unable to grow and take on more staff because of the constant weight of EU red tape and regulation, costing £600m a week, that they are unable to shake off.

We've been threatened with disaster, recession, even the possibility of war if we dare to choose another path. We've heard it all in this campaign and it's nonsense. Actually I'm inclined to cite two authorities on this. First the prime minister himself, who said back in January, before the renegotiation, before the Remain campaign's scaremongering kicked in that of course we would be able to trade freely with the EU if we left. He was right. And second Stuart Rose, the leader of the Remain campaign, yes that's right the Remain campaign, who told MPs that there wouldn't be an economic shock if we left, and that those on the lowest wages would in fact get a pay rise. He was right.

I believe the real risks are the risks of remain. We won't be voting for the status quo. We will be voting for further political union, in a desperate attempt to shore up the failing Euro project. Inevitably we will be dragged in, we will pay more, we will be forced to give up even more power to Brussels over our money, our borders and our democracy. That may not matter to Brussels or the multinational companies that feed off it, but I believe it matters to people in Kent.



NO TO EU: Boris Johnson says vote Leave to take back control of the country

This is about the democratic consent of the British people to know and dismiss those who make our laws and take back control. The EU now generates about 60 per cent of all the laws that pass through Westminster. We simply can not change that, unless we vote to leave.

As a member of the EU we are simply unable to control the numbers of people coming to this country. This makes it very difficult for us to plan for the public services we all rely on and it places huge pressure on our housing, hospitals, GP surgeries and schools. By leaving the EU we can

take back control of our borders, helping us to manage the pressure in our public services.

By leaving the EU we can introduce a fairer system of immigration based on our economic needs, a system that welcomes talented and skilled migrants from across the world. Currently our system discriminates against those workers in favour of uncontrolled movement from inside the EU.

I'm pro immigration, but it has to be fair and balanced, and it has to be about democratic consent, the ability of you the British people, to decide.

Kent is a proud county and Britain is a proud country. This Thursday you have a once in a lifetime opportunity to do something positive: to change the future of our country. To invest in the things that we all care about, like our NHS, rather than sending £350m a week of your cash to Brussels, cash that either you never see again or is spent here not on your say so but on the say so of unelected Brussels bureaucrats.

This Thursday you have a vote – a vote to create more jobs, to control our borders and to restore our democracy. It's a vote to confidently and proudly take back control.



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'If we leave, we take a leap in the dark'

PM David Cameron, *writing exclusively for Kent on Sunday*, on why we should remain in the EU...

IN just four days, the people of Kent will have their say: do we remain in a reformed Europe, or do we quit – for good?

If we stay, we can take advantage of all the things that make Britain stronger, safer and better off, while permanently opting out of the things that don't – like the Euro, Eurozone bailouts, the border-free Schengen zone and ever-closer union. If we leave, we take a leap in the dark – and risk our children's future.

The Single Market is a source of financial security for the people of Kent. It gives this great trading county access to 500 million customers, barrier free. Three million jobs are linked to those exports, from Chapel Down, whose English sparkling wine has taken the continent by storm, to BAE Systems, which says EU membership is vital to its business. This is the Single Market in action – and in it, Britain has become the world's fastest-growing major economy after America.

Leave campaigners and the President of the European Council agree on one thing: quit the EU and we quit the Single Market. Even after years of negotiations, no one realistically thinks Europe would give us as good

a deal as we have now. Some say "we could just do deals with the world instead". But that would never make up for trade with the EU, which accounts for nearly half our exports. What's more, the best trade deals are done between big blocs – like America and the EU.

Nine out of ten economists agree leaving would be bad for our economy. They've predicted a recession in the short term, a decade of uncertainty in the medium term, and Britain having a smaller economy in the long term. We've had a taste of life on the outside already: Kent companies have reported a decline in trade in fear of a Leave vote, and there's turbulence in global markets.

Let's be clear what all that means: less business, fewer jobs, higher prices, a falling pound. A smaller economy would mean less money to spend on the NHS, not more, as Leave campaigners wrongly suggest.

What about our national security? We're infinitely stronger and safer in the EU than outside. This is the forum where many important decisions about our continent are taken. It's where we pushed sanctions on Russia and Iran, and fought the spread of Ebola. If we leave, it doesn't disappear – those



REMAIN: Says a vote to remain on Thursday would be a vote for a stronger, safer and better off Britain

conversations just go on without us.

The EU isn't perfect. But it will affect us whether we're in or out. The only way we can change it – make it work for us – is on the inside. Leaving wouldn't gain control – it would hand it over, forever. Still, Leave campaigners want to roll the dice – they say "so what?" to the risks. Whatever hap-

pens, it is not a silver bullet for issues like immigration. Trashing your economy has never solved anything. That's why so many people – businesses large and small, scientists, economists, manufacturers, health professionals and even world leaders say the benefits outweigh the costs.

I want to be clear with Kent on

Sunday readers: if we vote to leave, we will be out of the EU for good. Our children and grandchildren will live with the consequences. So if you are at all unsure about which way to vote, don't take the risk of leaving. Vote for a Britain that is stronger, safer and better off – and on Thursday, vote to remain.

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Pressure grows on Osborne as Tory backbenchers revolt

Conservative cracks continue to show as Kent MPs blast chancellor's Brexit Budget, which threatens £30bn of tax rises and spending cuts if we vote leave...

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

GEORGE Osborne's role as chancellor could be untenable if Britain votes to leave the EU next week, a Kent MP has warned.

David Cameron's second-in-command has come under fire from his own party this week after he announced an emergency budget involving £30 billion of tax rises and spending cuts would come into effect within "a couple of months" if a Brexit vote succeeds on Thursday.

The budget has been slammed by some 57 Tory MPs, including a handful in Kent, leaving the chancellor's future somewhat unclear as cracks continue to show in the Conservative party.

Gordon Henderson, MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, was one of those, and he told KoS: "I don't

think there will be a Brexit Budget.

"If we do vote to leave, George Osborne will not introduce such a budget because he knows it will never get through parliament.

"But if he's serious and he was to introduce it despite the warnings, and knowing he was going to be defied, then his position would be untenable.

"I have been very careful as an active campaigner for the Leave vote to be very measured in everything I have said but the rhetoric on both sides has ramped up so much recently it's starting to become quite ludicrous and this is bordering on the extreme.

Both sides have been accused of 'scaremongering' throughout the campaign, but Mr Osborne's announcement on a visit to the county this week appears to be the most threatening so far, and a last-ditch attempt to swing the number of voters still undecided firmly into the Remain camp.

Mr Henderson's fellow pro-Brexit MP, Julian Brazier, who represents Canterbury, stopped short of saying the chancellor's role was untenable, but said the announcement was indicative of a Remain campaign very much on the ropes.

"I don't accept that there's a need for this budget, it's just one more scare story," he told KoS.

"The idea that suddenly we are going to see a collapse is complete and utter nonsense.

"Likewise, the threat that leaving makes us more likely to go to war - if that was really the case, why have they produced this so late?

"They are clearly panicking because they know the numbers are moving our way.

"There are only so many times you can cry wolf, the British public are getting fed up, and I don't think it will have a big impact on the result."

Mr Henderson agreed: "Twenty per cent have already voted by post,

so nothing will get them to change their minds.

"The Remain campaign was terribly complacent, they felt it was going to be a cakewalk for them given the resources at their disposal.

"They had every man and his uncle, including Barack Obama, on their side - they felt it was a done deal.

"But now they realise it's not and they've made this desperate attempt to claw back the support they have lost."

Speaking at the Hitachi depot in Ashford this week alongside former Labour chancellor Alistair Darling, Mr Osborne refused to be drawn on the future of his position.

"I respect all opinions in this campaign but this is not about one politician or one government," he said.

"This is a decision that, if we leave the EU, we will live with for decades to come.

"You've got a Conservative and Labour chancellor saying there will be a



PRESSURE: The chancellor (above) has come under fire from members of his own party, such as Gordon Henderson (right)

big hole in public finances where we need to raise taxes and cut spending, and there's only one thing worse than passing a budget like that, and that's



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COUNTDOWN TO EU REFERENDUM JUNE 23



CRY WOLF: Canterbury MP Julian Brazier also backs Brexit

not passing a budget to deal with the situation and sending the economy into a tailspin.

"This is about the future of our country, what's the point of getting involved in public life if you're not

prepared to fight for the things you think are really important to the country?"

Quizzed on how quickly such a plan would have to be implemented, he said: "Within a couple of months."

"You have to get on with it, it takes time to legislate for things and you have to show the world you have a credible plan to deal with this apparent deterioration of public finances."

Mr Darling, who was chancellor when the financial crisis struck in 2008, said a Brexit would in fact be worse than the recession suffered under his stewardship.

"If we left the EU with no clear idea of where we were going to end up, the effect of that, together with the signal we would be sending to the world that we're turning our back on our nearest neighbours, would be immensely damaging."

"Yes, the banking crisis was very bad, I know that, and it was more profound and long-lasting than anyone thought."

"But the risk is that we get ourselves into even deeper water, which is why I think it would be absolute madness for us to take a leap in the dark into a position where we can't come back."

With the county's MPs split by the referendum, only one of the 17 across Kent has yet to declare an allegiance to either side, and Chatham and Aylesford's Tracey Crouch blasted the nature of the campaigns over recent weeks.

The sports minister, who is currently on maternity leave, said: "I am struck by how appalled I am by both campaigns."

"Neither have been particularly

helpful in providing facts which may persuade the undecided one way or another and, as a lifelong politico, I feel embarrassed for my industry."

"Politicians from both sides have put forward arguments backed up by flimsy statistics and projections."

"Leave cannot provide an economic plan, Remain cannot provide a cast iron guarantee on immigration, yet both claim that the other will bring doom if they win."

Mr Osborne also admitted that a 'Brexit Budget' could pose question marks over big-money infrastructure projects across the county such as the Operation Stack lorry park and the Lower Thames Crossing earmarked for Gravesend.

"The Lower Thames Crossing is a really important piece of investment that needs to go ahead," he said.

"We're all very aware of the congestion we've got at the crossing at Dartford at the moment, but these decisions take many, many years and when you make them, you need to make sure the funding is there years later when the diggers are there."

"One of the first things that happens when there's a recession and a hit to public finances is that capital spending on transport and infrastructure often suffers because it's the first thing that gets cut."

"You've got to make the books add up and frankly there are only a certain number of taxes you can increase to raise the sums required, and only a certain number of big government budgets you can cut, and that's the cold reality of quitting the EU."



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DUPED: Some sick horses had their illness covered up in order for the trio to sell them on for as much as £5,700. Text messages, right, revealed what they were doing.

How vet rode in to join fraudster gang duping horse loving buyers

Horse owners duped by trio who sedated erratically behaving animals before claiming they were fine

AVET and two equine dealers have been found guilty of conspiring to sell ill and dangerous horses for up to £5,700 each to unsuspecting buyers.

The trio often duped parents into buying what they thought were placid horses for their children, only to later discover the animals had been heavily sedated when they had visited them.

In one case a horse bolted with a child on board, while another threw off a rider who, as a consequence, was unable to walk for year.

Aniela Jurecka, 28, of Collier Street, Tonbridge; Charlotte Johnson, 28, of Tollgate Way, Sandling; and David Smith, 66, of The Street, Finglesham, Deal, were all arrested following a large-scale operation involving officers from police, trading standards and The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

The trial began on March 7. Despite denying the multiple fraud charges, the trio were found guilty when they appeared before Maidstone Crown Court on Monday.

The court was told how Jurecka and Johnson advertised horses for sale in equestrian publications.

When text messages from their respective phones were downloaded by detectives, they suggested the pair were drugging horses to cover up poor behaviour and lameness.

Jurecka and Johnson would also

advise that buyers used their recommended vet, Smith, to save money.

Smith would then give the horses a clean bill of health and the victim would purchase a sub-standard horse. In many cases the paperwork for the horses was altered, with prices for horses ranging from £1,950 to as much £5,700.

The horses were sold from Duckhurst Farm, Staplehurst, and Great Thorn Farm, Marden. The certificate of the animal's good health and suitability for purpose were provided by Smith, who worked at the Lakeview Veterinary Centre in Capel-le-Ferne near Folkestone.

Jurecka and Johnson advertised the horses under the business names of SE Horses and Mid Kent Horses.

Throughout the course of the investigation officers identified 17 victims of fraud.

In some cases the buyers were looking for animals suitable for children.

One buyer describes purchasing a pony for her child that was described as "a baby-sitter on four legs".

The pony, called Jimmy, was sold for £1,950 to the woman with a two week warranty after being vetted and passed by Smith who was recommended by Jurecka.

After a few days the pony developed behavioural problems and bolted with its 10-year-old jockey.

The pony's behaviour continued to get worse and the owners attempted to return Jimmy under the warranty.

“Other than being criminal, passing an injured horse as fit to ride and jump is nothing short of cruel and shows a disregard to the veterinary oath”

Det Con Tracey Brightman,
Officer in charge of the case

A civil action ensued which was won by the victim, however Jurecka, did not pay the monies ordered by the court.

The first incident was reported to police on October 26, 2010, and related to a horse named Belle.

A man saw the advert for Belle, an Irish sports horse which promoted the mare as being capable of Pony Club activities and with a good temperament.

Johnson told him she had owned Belle for three years and had competed in show jumping and cross country.

The man agreed to purchase the horse after seeing her at Great Thorn Farm in Marden, but the sale was subject to her passing vetting.

Johnson advised the victim to use Smith for the vetting procedure, which he did, and Smith passed the horse as being in good health. When

the victim received Belle and her equine passport, he was alarmed to see the page detailing immunisations had been removed.

The horse developed behavioural problems and was lame, and after doing some research, the victim found out that the mare was a thoroughbred, not Irish sports horse as publicised and whilst making enquiries he realised that other people had experienced similar issues with horses purchased from Johnson.

Police launched an investigation and located similar incidents which were linked to Johnson that had occurred in Meopham.

Officers contacted trading standards and The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and began working with the organisations to unravel the large scale deception by the vet and horse dealers.

On May 31, 2013 police executed a warrant at Lakeview Vets and seized information from computers which uncovered poor record keeping by Smith, in particular surrounding the supply of Modecate.

This is a controversial behaviour modifying sedative with a long term effect and masks behavioural problems in aggressive problem horses.

Several text messages to Smith by the dealers were also uncovered by the detectives where Jurecka asked Smith for Modecate and Sedalin.

Due to the number of victims coming forward the investigation was a

complex and large enquiry and in January 2015 the trio were charged with fraud.

They were found guilty on Monday and are to be sentenced in July on a date yet to be confirmed.

The officer in charge of the case, Det Con Tracey Brightman, said: "These horses were obtained cheaply by Johnson and Jurecka because they had physical problems or aggressive tendencies.

"We believe their issues were masked with drugs supplied by Smith when a potential buyer came to try out the horse.

"The dealers made huge profits on unfit, ill and injured horses working with a veterinary surgeon to ensure their lies were covered with credibility.

"What they were doing was not only fraud but also putting their customers in danger.

"In one instance a woman was left unable to walk for a year after being thrown from her horse.

"It later transpired the animal had serious back problems which made it unsuitable for the activities that Smith had passed it for.

"The criminal aspect of the case may overlook the fact that passing an injured horse as fit to ride and jump is nothing short of cruel and shows a complete disregard to the veterinary oath.

"Unfortunately in some cases the horses were so ill they had to be euthanised causing yet more distress to the new owners."

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BRIEF: Blink and you miss it, but the asparagus crop is looking like a good one this year.

All pictures: Sam Nightingale at Gibbet Oak

Farmers spear a tasty short-lived crop as asparagus season arrives

Chris Murphy speaks to producers of a crop which is one of the most eagerly anticipated in the county

FOR many people, the short-lived Kentish asparagus season is one of the highlights of the culinary calendar.

The little green spears may look unimpressive poking above the ground in fields around the county, but they remain highly sought after as both a delicacy and, as legend has it, an aphrodisiac.

But, like so many crops this year, they have been impacted by the vagaries of the British weather.

However, while its timings may be a little off, the crop is set to be a special one.

Grower Matthew Spanton at Edward Spanton Farms, near Ramsgate, explained: "The British weather has kept us guessing this season."

"We've had some heat and quite a bit of rain more recently which saw our season start late. We'd normally expect some crop in April, but this year we started cutting our asparagus in May."

"Since the season started though, the quality has been brilliant, really delicious. With just a week left of the British asparagus season, now is the time to grab a bundle and savour the taste before the long wait for next season begins."

His father Edward Spanton said they produce around 100 tonnes per season on their farm.

He said across the UK, some 2,000 hectares is used to grow asparagus, while Kent's grow area is around 250 hectares.

Explains a spokesman for local food and drink champions, Produced in

Kent: "This year's Kent asparagus season got off to a slow start with picking beginning about seven days later than an average year and about 14 days later than last year when it was unseasonably early."

"That's the thing with seasonal fruit and vegetables, there is no set timetable and no guarantees. The farmers and growers have to work with the climate conditions they are given in any particular year in order to serve up the great quality fruit and vegetables Kent is renowned for, after all it is the Garden of England."

"Asparagus is one of the most seasonal of vegetables and eagerly anticipated as it heralds the start of all that is to come with the new season strawberries hot on its heels this year."

It said growing asparagus has to be a labour of love and each spear is harvested by hand when it reaches just the right height.

The traditional season runs from the end of April to June and growers cannot extend the season beyond its traditional end date without impacting on next year's crop.

Local asparagus farmer Michael Bourne, of New Park Farm near Groombridge, said: "Despite the late start we have been producing good volumes; the last 10 days have been rather wet but combined with the warm soil it has been good for growing."

"While volumes may be slightly down overall it's been a great season and the demand for locally grown asparagus has been really strong, with customers wanting to make the

most of the short season"

The five acres of green asparagus at New Park Farm benefits from soil that is Tunbridge Wells sand overlying sandstone, lying at 103 metres above sea level, all with a southerly aspect.

The land is free draining and the mixed farming system allows them to incorporate rich organic manure on a regular basis.

The Nightingales at Gibbet Oak Farm, just outside Tenterden, are fourth generation fruit farmers who also grow asparagus.

Sam Nightingale said: "While it's been a difficult growing season, there has been strong support from our customers and there is still time to get your hands on Kent asparagus before the end of the season."

Part of the appeal of asparagus is its versatility, you could eat it a different way almost every day of the eight week season. From simply steamed or grilled, with poached eggs or hollandaise to pasta, quiches and pies.

British asparagus was one of the ingredients featured in the Queen's 90th birthday hampers, served to the party goers on The Mall.

Local, seasonal produce from around the UK was a key feature of the hamper and echoes the increasing interest in British home grown and locally produced food and drink.

Research company Kantar discovered in the last decade, UK demand for the upmarket vegetable has soared by an astonishing 540 per cent and in 2014, British shoppers splashed out £65 million buying nine million kilos of asparagus.

Elsewhere in Kent the challenging growing conditions have led to creative innovations.

The warm wet weather has caused a number of growth spurts, leading to too much asparagus being ready at once and one Kent grower has taken advantage of this by drying the excess asparagus and turning it into asparagus powder.

Charlie Fermor, of Perry Court Farm, near Ashford, said: "We have applied the technology used to make our fruit crisps and dried the asparagus."

"It creates an intensely flavoured ingredient and we have been serving it sprinkled on the asparagus soup in our newly reopened tearoom for an extra layer of flavour."

He said they still have plenty of fresh asparagus available between now and the end of the season, so customers need to make the most of it while because thanks to that short season, once it has done, it's gone.

Chris Chinn, chairman of the British Asparagus Growers' Association, said: "It's been a rollercoaster of a season across the UK, from a very early few spears from tunnels, to a delayed main season starting a couple of weeks from the usual season start on April 23, then a big peak, before a spell of shortage in the east due to cold winds."

"Last week was pretty good again. Overall, we're slightly down on volume over the season but let's hope for a good, warm summer, as that's when all the root systems gain their energy for the season ahead, and we'll go again next year."

Last year was a bumper crop, but, as Kent on Sunday reported back in 2012, high temperatures at the end of March prompted the earliest recorded harvest of small quantities of the outdoor crop, there was near disaster as temperatures then suddenly dropped making it a considerably cooler April.

That slowed production to a standstill in some areas. Rain also cooled the soil, compounding the problems.

At the time, Charles Atkins, who runs CU Murch Ltd in Blean, Canterbury, says he's pulling his hair out over the weather, adding: "We have five acres of asparagus here, and the weather is playing havoc with us."

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■ For more information and some inspiration for serving ideas, visit www.britishasparagus.co.uk.

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Street parties bloom to

Across the county communities came together to honour

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

HUNDREDS of events took place across the county last weekend as we celebrated the Queen's official 90th birthday in style.

Communities came together to stage everything from picnics to flower shows to street parties.

More than 90 roads were closed to allow for tables to be erected and neighbours to join in the big occasion.

And even though the weather dampened proceedings occasionally with a downpour, it could not spoil what was a memorable weekend for thousands of people.

In Chislehurst alone, more than 1,500 guests turned out for a giant street party.

Monies raised - more than £6,000 - were for the upkeep of the common.

The high tea was hit by a deluge of rain, but the sun eventually came out for guests to enjoy live music and dancing - many wearing vintage 1950s' attire.

Donna Bompas, chair of the organising committee, said: "People here know how to have a good time and the sense of community is priceless. A bit of rain did nothing to dampen



FLAGS: Gravesend's big street party, above, and residents of Ravenwood in Bexley, main right, get in the spirit last weekend for a memorable event

spirits and if anything, the weather made it even more of a day to remember."

And as you can see from the images on this page, events around the

county ensured everyone joined in the fun. Pictured are images from Gravesend, Birchington, Sittingbourne, Painter's Forstal near Faversham,



SMILES: Painter's Forstal near Faversham. Pictures: Phil Houghton

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celebrate the royal 90th

the Queen in style for her official birthday last weekend...



TOGETHER: From special cakes to ornate bouquets, communities came together to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th birthday



BLOOM: A special flower festival in Sittingbourne honoured the Queen with special blooms, above, while Birchington celebrated in style, below



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Amber is 'living life to the fullest'

Aged 19, student Amber Garland's world collapsed when she suffered a stroke that left her unable to walk, talk or swallow. Seven years later, thanks to the Stroke Association, she is rebuilding her life...

ARAINHAM youngster who had a stroke at the age of 19 has spoken of her gratitude towards the organisation that is helping her to 'live life to the fullest'.

Amber Garland was studying psychology at the university of Southampton when she had multiple strokes that left her unable to walk, talk or swallow.

Now aged 26, she has regained much of her independence, although she continues to be affected by aphasia – a condition that causes communication problems.

She told Kent on Sunday: "After my stroke I couldn't talk, write or read.

"Fast forward to today and I can do all three, but find some harder than others. For example, reading and speaking is difficult for me.

"With writing I'm still quite slow. I end up missing words or letters out of sentences without realising

"In a big group, I'd be very quiet, I find it hard to start a conversation or speak loudly.

"When I meet people, they think I'm stupid or slow – they think to talk to other people rather than me. My intelligence is still there; it's just harder to reach.

"It's gutting that all the hard work I put in to my education before my stroke – I got three As at A-Level – has been wasted. I needed to start from scratch with learning everything again.

"I never imagined I'd have a stroke and feel this way, but you have to get up, dust it off and get on with life."

After her stroke, Miss Garland felt she had to abandon her studies and her ambition to pursue psychology as a career, but that did not stop her from having other achievements.

"I started college at Mid-Kent – mainly for friends and confidence," she said. "I thought the only way to do it was to jump into the deep end and go to a place where there would be lots of people I'd have to communicate with.

"I took up art and design – never in a million years would I think that would be something I'd do. I gained more confidence, and friends – and also found a creative side to me I never knew existed.

"I'm still shy when it comes to meeting new people, but as soon as I get to know someone I become more confident.

"I think the best thing I can do is tell someone I've had a stroke, and I struggle to talk, and then they know."

The Stroke Association, a charity dedicated to researching strokes and helping stroke survivors, played a key role in Miss Garland's recovery.

The charity initially meets with a stroke survivor and carries out an assessment of their condition and where they would like to be.

It practises 'total communication', so if people cannot communicate verbally, they look at using gesture, writing and other methods to help them get their message across.

The Stroke Association runs inten-



RAISING AWARENESS: Amber Garland (right) and Tara Galloway (centre) giving a presentation about aphasia to pupils at a high school.

sive language courses, as well as group sessions around practising sequencing in sentences, and provides peer support for those affected.

Miss Garland now volunteers with the charity as an ambassador, visiting schools, businesses and other organisations to raise awareness of her condition.

Tara Galloway, area manager for Kent and Medway, said: "When I first met Amber, she had almost no verbal output. Now, she can learn off by heart, but she still has problems sequencing words together.

"People with aphasia face a lot of stigma every day and simple things like buying a loaf of bread can seem impossible.

"People can be misunderstood and it can really affect relationships and day-to-day communication.

"When Amber and I do a presentation, she can demonstrate how it can affect her and get the message across. She is particularly great at going into as many places as possible.

"Amber can memorise a whole presentation and she can tell you facts and figures off the top of her head

"She had difficulty with medical terminology, such as atrial fibrillation, but she practises and practises and can say all of the medical jargon.

"She still has trouble with numbers but now she can say percentages and



she is much more confident."

The most recent data indicates that 30,500 people in Kent and Medway were recorded as having a stroke or mini-stroke, which is in line with the national average.

According to Mrs Galloway, there are communication services available in the county but the charity is always on the lookout for more volunteers and funding.

The government's stroke strategy will come to an end in November and the charity is backing a petition to have a new one put in place.

She added that the government is not giving stroke the attention it is due, as it is the largest complex cause of disability in adults and the fourth single largest cause of death in the UK.

The Stroke Association also supports people back to work and helps them with the process of requesting



INSPIRING: Amber Garland (right) and Tara Galloway (left).

reasonable adjustments from their employer.

"Sadly, employers tend to overlook people with aphasia, but they have not lost their intelligence," Mrs Galloway said.

"Amber wants to get into employment working around stroke; she is volunteering and we are building that up."

Miss Garland said: "When I hear someone say 'I didn't know young people could have a stroke' or 'I didn't know what a stroke was' after my presentations, it makes me feel so good.

"I know that through my talks I'm doing a lot for awareness, so if anyone finds themselves in the awful position I was in, they'd be more aware.

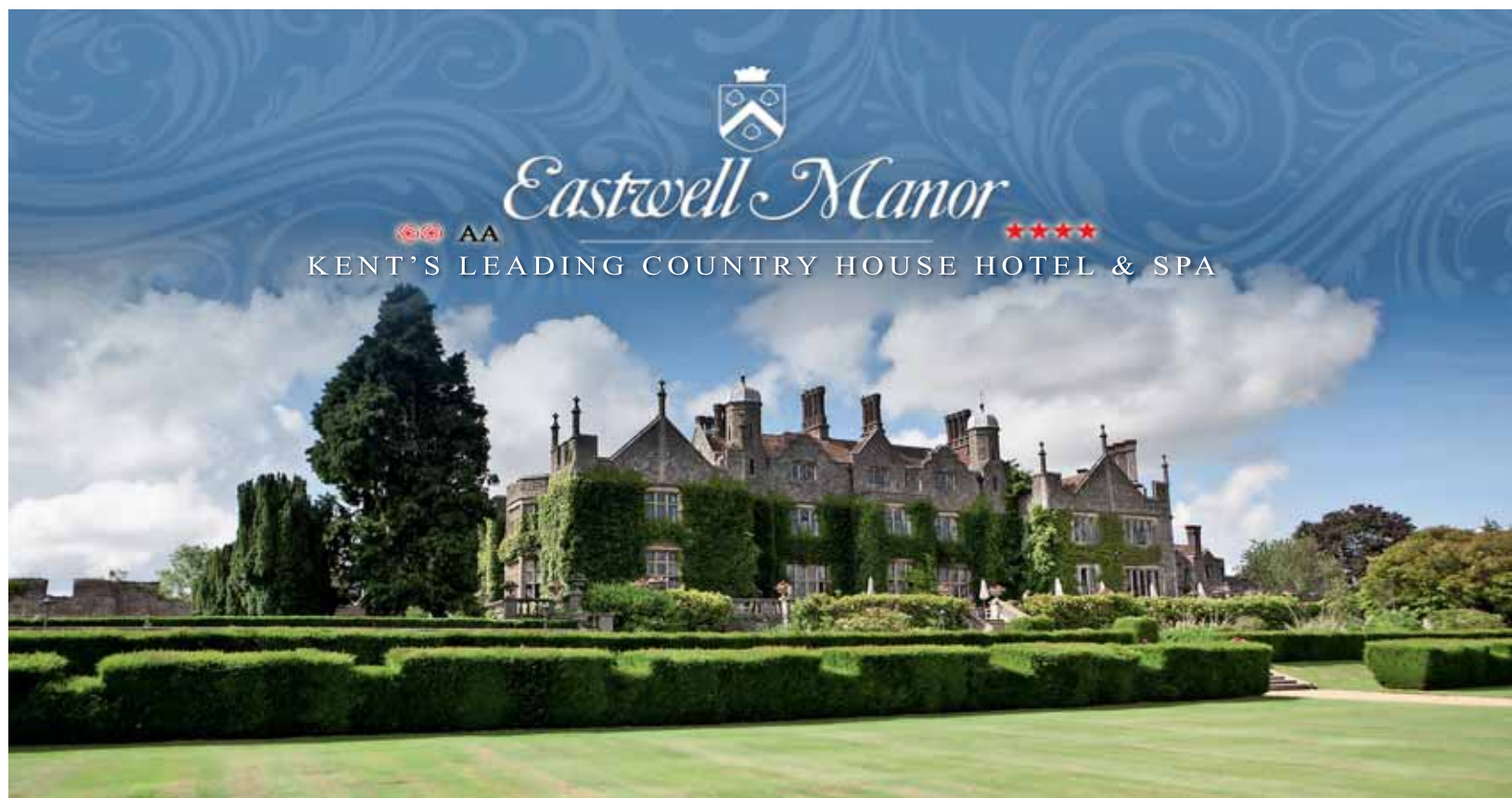
"At first it really knocked me, but now thanks to college and the Stroke Association, I won't let it define who I am, instead I will live my life to the fullest."

Mrs Garland achieved a double distinction and merit on her art and design course.

Her family provide support, as well as the charity, and she paid tribute to her mother, Beverly Hartly, who passed away in 2015 after suffering from motor neurone disease.

"My mum was amazing, she got me to where I am today," Mrs Garland said.

"I'll never feel sorry for myself – or say 'poor me' – I will always stay positive, I'm still here and that's what I'm so thankful for."



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Delivering on a 66-year promise

When David Hughes was a young lad in a picturesque village, he had a chance encounter with the relatives of a Great War victim which would stay with him. Next month he finally delivers his response

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ON a chilly November day in 1950, a seven-year-old boy was approached by a family in the village of Aldington – a small countryside hamlet midway between Ashford and Folkestone.

The family were from London and wanted to locate the memorial for those lost in the village during the First World War.

Remarkably, 66 years later, that chance meeting would become a life-long obsession for that little boy.

Today, David Hughes is now 73 and something of a war memorial expert, and he is about to finally deliver what he believes is a fitting tribute to the fallen of the Great War, as he prepares to unveil a memorial to the 49 men and one woman who were killed.

Speaking to KoS this week, he clearly remembers the day all those years ago. He told us: "It was on that all-important day of November 11, 66 years ago.

"I was playing in the village when this car pulled up next to me. A family from London wanted to remember their relative who died in the war and lay some flowers on the memorial – I had to break it to them that there was no such memorial.

"They were dismayed when I said all we had was a plaque at the church and that was the only visible sign in the village that anyone had been killed in World War One from Aldington.

"And that moment touched me. I was only seven at the time. Remember, the Second World War had not long ended, so the subject of war was still very fresh in people's memories.

"I knew then that Aldington should have its own memorial and at that moment, I decided I had to do something about it.

"After heading to the home of Bill Deedes, later Lord Deedes, and asking him about it, he agreed there should be a memorial. His wife used to keep horses in a local field, so I sort of knew them.

"With his promise ringing in my ears, I assumed something would be done and I understood it could take some time, but I never realised at the time that he was so busy it must have slipped his mind."

Years passed, and nothing happened and Mr Hughes realised he had to do more.

He told us: "What I learned about these memorials is that no one actually owns them, and that's why so many have fallen in to disrepair, which is a shame.

"It was then a long saga with me trying to get people interested including the parish council, but money was still generally tight for this sort of project.

"The idea of a memorial was put on the back burner for decades, but I recently took up the fight again, and with the help of social media, word got around so much faster and more people came forward with offers of money.

"People did runs, and other fund



raising events. I can't believe how fast we raised the money for this memorial. It shows the changing times where everyone is connected electronically. Word gets out so much faster."

The £12,000 memorial, standing almost 10 feet tall, now takes in Aldington, Bonnington and Hurst. It lists all 50 names of those lost.

Mr Hughes said: "During my research for this memorial, some of which took place while I was in the Army myself in 1958, I was amazed to actually track down details of three German soldiers who had killed Aldington locals.

"It was a shock and shows there are always two sides to war."

Now at 11am on July 2, the new war memorial will finally be officially unveiled to honour Aldington's role in the wars – he even personally worked on the paving.

The distinctive A-shape is made of local ragstone and is the first new war memorial to be put up in Kent for some time.

Battling his own ill health, Mr Hughes said: "We have come a long way since that church plaque. Even that had 23 names missing as the families didn't attend church services.

"I have had to work tirelessly to track down all 47 of the families whose relatives are named on the memorial and invite all of them to send representatives to the opening ceremony.

"So far we have made contact with 31, and are actively looking for the others. It would mean so much to me and the people of the villages to have



UNVEILING: The memorial will be officially unveiled on July 2 to mark the centenary of the Somme

family members of all of the deceased there for the unveiling.

"The memorial is for everyone to remember the sacrifice of these young lives.

"The opening will be one day after the anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Somme, in which many of Aldington's servicemen were lost."

The Battle of the Somme's 100th anniversary will be marked by a number of events across the country.

Beginning on July 1, 1916, it was the most brutal and bloody of conflicts.

Fought in northern France, it saw allied forces face German troops in a five month battle of attrition on the Western Front.

Unable to break through the Ger-

man lines, both sides killed one another relentlessly.

It is estimated that the total dead and wounded toll by the time the battle was over, amounted to more than one million people.

As a consequence it is one of the bloodiest battles the world has ever witnessed. It stands as a testament to the horror of the First World War.

Mr Hughes is still keen to get hold of families from the Aldington area with these surnames, so they can be invited to the ceremony.

The names include: Burch, Chitenden, Cogger, Daisey, Day, Heath, Hodgkin, Hook, Lancaster, Major, Milton, Peacock, Rayner, Southern, Webb and Wood.

Anyone who can help can contact Mr Hughes directly on 01233 720 646.

■ A new 400 square metre museum, as an extension of the Thiepval Memorial Visitor Centre, has now opened as a prelude to the Centenary commemorations of the Battle of the Somme.

The Thiepval Anglo-French monument is one of the main memorial sites in the region and the repository of more than 72,000 names of Missing soldiers; those who have no known grave.

Thousands of visitors are expected to attend Thiepval and the Somme's other memorial sites at the beginning of next month to mark the battle.

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HIT: The Red Arrows were once again the stars of the show

Crowd's glee as Festival of Flight soars to success

Biggin Hill opened its gates to welcome thousands for its annual air show last weekend, featuring military craft and a host of dramatic aerial displays.

By Luke May

luke.may@archant.co.uk

ORGANISERS hailed the success of Biggin Hill Airport's airshow last weekend as crowds gathered for the Festival of Flight.

Thousands of people craned their necks to the sky on Saturday to watch some of Britain's historic aircraft take to the skies

Now in its third year since the airshow's revival in 2014, the Biggin Hill Festival of Flight boasted a range of talented performances from wing-walkers, the Red Arrows and historic fighter aircraft.

One of the last surviving Lancaster Bomber's from the Second World War joined a Supermarine Spitfire and Hawker Hurricane to create a Battle of Britain memorial flight in memory of The Few.

Those who braved the rain were treated to an explosive flight from a Bristol Blenheim bomber, showing off a mock-bombing run accompanied with pyrotechnic effects.

The festival drew in nearly 15,000 people, with organiser Colin Hitchins seemingly pleased with the turnout.

He said: "Considering there were 75 street parties in Bromley to celebrate the Queen's birthday, it was a

big success to attract such a crowd.

"The Red Arrows are always a highlight for us each year.

"People often say we give a good cross section of aviation entertainment at the festival, and I think we did that again this year.

This year, the festival also offered a sixties village, which featured classic cars on display alongside sixties memorabilia and live bands.

Mr Hitchins claimed the addition to the event made this year "a festival on the ground as well as in the air," with live bands including a tribute to The Who.

Up in the air, the Royal Navy Raiders display team, made up of servicemen including Royal Marines, fell to earth as part of their parachute display performance.

With the showground at Biggin Hill totally cleared by Monday, organisers have already begun planning for 2017.

Next year will mark 100 years of Biggin Hill Airport and Mr Hitchins claims work is already underway to make the airport's centenary extra special during 2017's festival, where he is expecting an even larger crowd to come to the popular airshow.



BOOM: Crowds were treated to explosive action at Biggin Hill. Pictures: Mike Rivett and Keith Larby/AK Photos

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RIDES: There should be no stopping big crowds flocking to the park this year after a change in its pricing structure beginning this weekend

Dreamland drops entry fee in bid for bumper summer

Margate resort now a pay-to-ride venue as it seeks to maximise seaside offering

BOSSES of seaside theme park Dreamland have confirmed it will become free to enter as of this weekend – dropping the pricing model it has had throughout its first year.

That means you can now access the park and soak up the atmosphere without having to pay to do so.

However, while the entry fee – which allowed unlimited use of all the rides – has been dropped, it does now mean there will be a charge for all the rides.

Those will range from £4 to ride the classic Scenic Railway roller-coaster and the Enterprise, to £3 for the big wheel or the dodgem and £1 for the Swing Boats and Dream Cars.

Each ride takes tokens with each token retailing for £1.

For those still wanting unlimited access, wristbands will continue to

be available priced £12 in advance or £15 on the day for those over 1.25m in height. Those under, and therefore restricted on some rides, it will cost £8 or £10 on the day. There will also be discounted tickets offering access to all rides all weekend.

It comes just weeks after administrators took over the park and is seen as a way of removing a barrier to the park maximising its revenue streams.

It also coincides with the park's first birthday this weekend.

Dreamland chief executive Eddie Kemsley said: "Dreamland's management team made this decision after all pricing models were trialed during 2015. We received lots of customer feedback on pricing and we listened. We believe this new pricing model is the best option and will please as many of our guests as possible."

The park operated a similar pricing strategy during its Frosted Fairground Christmas opening.

A spokesman added: "The great thing is that Dreamland is now open to everyone each weekend and during holidays. Non-riders who wish to visit the park and see our vintage ride collection, laugh at the on-park entertainments team or enjoy performances on the bandstand, can do so at no cost.

"Those brave enough to manage one or two rides, can choose a pay to ride option and those serious about getting the most out of their day can buy a wristband for unlimited rides."

And they said reaction so far had been overwhelmingly positive.

They added: "On social media, the response has been fantastic. People are really responding well so we're confident this will prove a

big success."

And, in truth, it needs to.

After much fanfare, the park opened last year. Seen as a key component in Margate's regeneration – alongside the Turner Contemporary art gallery – it traded on bringing retro rides back to life.

But Heritage Sands Ltd, which was appointed to run the park, ended the year £2.9m in debt. It stumbled into the new year, and last month collapsed into administration.

Administrators Duff & Phelps are now calling the shots and are tasked with making it a viable business in order to attract a new operator to come in and take it over and, hopefully, take it into profit.

As a consequence, it is essential the park delivers this summer or it will face an uncertain future.

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Women Seeking

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mydate24

PAT, petite blonde lady, GSOH, young looking for her age, seeks genuine gent any age with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422393

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673

RITA, seeks a genuine male for friendship, days out, shes very friendly, genuine and social, give her a call ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422403

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3006 Box 421657

MERRY, widow, dark hair, kind and caring, hoping to meet a kind gent for friendship, possibly more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422339

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715

BARBARA, is a caring lady who seeks a man to care for, she will do anything to make you happy. Just give her a call today. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422411

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 422363

ORIENTAL lady, honest, caring, loves walking, WLTW a reliable, sincere man for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5443434

50YRS, old attractive lady. Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422469

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399

GENUINE, GSH, attractive, outgoing professional female, 55. Enjoys keeping fit, socialising and travel. WLTW similar male for relationship. Text only Mailbox: 5453851

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box 421375

MATURE lady early 80s, family orientated, likes dancing, holidays especially cruising. WLTW similar aged gentleman with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421427

WENDY, mature, passionate ladylike divorcee seeks no strings casual friendship/fun with gent any age. Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 421605

JO, mature understanding worldly Essex lady, seeks generous gent for regular fetish fantasy roleplay, discretion assured. Text only Mailbox: 5320299

PAT, slim, single, 68, non-smoker, GSOH, likes going for walks etc, seeks male, slim, single, 66-70, non-smoker, clean-shaven, GSOH, with similar interests. Canterbury area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081

LAURA, single mum, 29yrs, blue eyed blonde, fair skinned, pretty, lonely and seeking adult company when the kids are in bed! ACA. Text only Mailbox: 5456242

SINGLE late 60s female, n/s, GSOH, likes going out and being active, not fun on my own, seeking single male, 66-70, n/s, with GSOH, to share each others interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421433

MATURE lady early 80s, family orientated, likes dancing, holidays especially cruising. WLTW similar aged gentleman with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421429

FEMALE, young 58, 5ft2, size 14, blonde, bubbly, GSOH, warm, loving, kind and caring, loves music, animals, seaside, looking for that special someone. Text only Mailbox: 4715158

GENUINE single female 49, seeking good-natured, intelligent, polite, single male for friendship/relationship. Text only Mailbox: 4198603

KIND, caring lady of African origin, living in UK for past 20 years, looking for a gentleman who is kind and caring, must have a GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421041

BEN, kind caring gent, 37yrs, very tall and well built with curly black hair. Own home, good job, just missing a special lady. Text only Box: 4158248

SUGAR Daddy available! Mature, tall, slim, natural dark hair, seeks lady, age unimportant. Not afraid of commitment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418889

PHILLIP, 66, into farming and country life, looking for a loyal, genuine lady, someone I can trust, to go on holidays with and spend time together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422699

TONY, early 60s, 6ft, slim, fit, easy going, looking for no strings fun with a lady, age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422643

LIVELY old boy, OHAC, near sea in Folkestone, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks lady companion/lover, 58-68 yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422621

HANDSOME male, mid 40s, dark hair, hazel eyes, wishes to meet appropriate female for fun, friendship and perhaps more, please get in touch if interested. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422587

LOCAL Sevenoaks man, seeks local lady for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417127

CHANTELE, 5ft3 light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy. Littlehampton. Text only to Mailbox no: 4923883

MARIE, very lonely middle-aged woman, looking for a kind hearted older man, late 70s/early 80s for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418955

RACHEL late 40s, blonde, blue eyes and very voluptuous. Looking for a kind, caring honest man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418741

ESSEX lady, mid 60s, adaptable, seeking nice male, likes most things. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418537

SARAH 29yr old pretty slim single mum of one, interesting, lively, good fun, enjoys nights in/out, music, seeking similar easy going, genuine, honest man/dad to get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415841

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

WRITER, tall, slim, fit, natural dark hair, generous, seeks lady for erotic rendezvous, I will make it worth your while! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422777

MALE, 54, shyish, looking for fun times with a lady, 60-70, with GSOH, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422431

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013

PROFESSIONAL, romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195

CHRIS, from Folkestone, 71, 5ft9, widower, green eyes, lonely, n/s, OHAC, likes gardening, the coast, pubs, dining out, holidays, cruises, days out, WLTW similar lady to share interests, can travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422375

PAUL GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970

MIKE, 64, outgoing person, enjoys life, likes sport, cricket, nice meals out, holidays, WLTW someone to share interests and quality time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422329

COLIN, 56, 6ft, medium build, clean and tidy with a tidy beard, I am after some TLC with no strings adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422359

BARRY, 50, 6ft, well-built, seeks local lady for good times, loving and enjoying life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421047

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418117

HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243

FEMALE, 59, GSOH, many interests, seeks caring male for fun friendship maybe more, genuine calls only. Text only to Mailbox No: 4819793

GORGEOUS flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435

FEMALE easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603

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PAUL 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077

MALE, 54, shyish, looking for fun times with a lady, 60-70, with GSOH, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422431

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HARLOW male, 40, kind, attractive, happy, considerate looking to meet slim female for LTR, children welcome. Text only Mailbox: 5468389

FRIENDLY passionate male, 55, 6ft, medium build, clean, discreet, lots of TLC to offer, seeks female for fun times. Canterbury Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381222

OUTGOING male, seeking attractive female, likes sports, music, cinema and nights out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414793

CHRIS widower, likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191

MALE, 6ft, slim, 67, divorced, retired, likes social drinks, meals out, nights in and all other, WLTW lady with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421341

MATURE cross dressing guy, seeking lady willing to apply a full make over and give a manicure and pedicure. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421883

PAUL 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, likes music, cinema, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tunbridge Wells. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371985

MALE, 58, very outgoing, looking for attractive female, slim to medium build, for adult fun and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421883

SLIM, 5ft 6 white male WLTW 18 to 42 year old lady for friendship. Text only Mailbox: 5441709

RETIRED, smart, 68 year old, 5ft5, I enjoy eating out, walking, holidays and golf, WLTW a slim, attractive lady, 60-68, for a loving, tender relationship, to enjoy these times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421853

MALE, 55 looking for mature lady for outings and adult fun, easy going, GSOH, nice looking and a bit shy. Text only Mailbox: 422399

YOUNG 50s male looking for discreet daytime kisses and cuddles with nice female, Kent and Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421601

FEMININE sensual female, slim-medium build wanted by slim, kind male for daytime meets, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414809

JIM 45, slim 5'8, blue eyes, short brown hair, very fit, would like to meet older lady for regular N S A fun. East Sussex. Text only Mailbox: 4529089

NEIL, Looking to meet lady for fun, possible LTR with someone special, accom and travel w/Sussex, age/looks unimportant. Text only Mailbox: 435323

WIDOWER 67, N/S, likes real life, country music, gardening, DIY, seeks N/S female for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381143

DAVE 64 solvent, working, not bad looking, would like to meet slim, fun to be with female, 50 to 60, to get to know. Chelmsford. Text only to Mailbox: 4368820

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Abba and Bee Gees set off a chain reaction with tribute show

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE world's longest-running tribute show to Swedish four-piece Abba is coming to the county with three shows at our theatres.

Now celebrating the 40th anniversary of the huge hit Dancing Queen, the number one forms the climax to the international hit stage show Thank You for the Music.

The production – which also features the UK's most successful Bee Gees revue – is now in its 23rd year.

Remarkably, says show producer Michael Taylor, it has been touring for longer than the band were together during the 1970s and 80s.

He explained: "Combining Lycra-tight harmonies with superb musicianship, Thank You for the Music has outlasted ABBA in their prime.

"Dancing Queen represents the pinnacle of the group's career, and we have produced a brand-new show rocking the sound of 'the right music' for 2016."

The set list includes Super Trouper, Waterloo, Mamma Mia,



REVIVED: Your chance to see tribute acts to both Abba and the Bee Gees as they play three shows in Kent

Thank You for the Music, Gimme, Gimme, Gimme, Knowing Me Knowing You, Mamma Mia and, of course, Dancing Queen.

Thank You for the Music also features The Magic of the Bee Gees, bringing to life the numerous chart-toppers from the high-pitched Gibb brothers.

The trio, backed by a live band, perform original Bee Gees' hits like Staying Alive, Massachusetts,

Night Fever and How Deep is Your Love as well as million-sellers penned for other artists by the Bee Gees including Islands in the Stream, If I Can't Have You and Chain Reaction.

Adds Mr Taylor: "Seen the record-breaking movie? Taken in the smash-hit West End musical? Bought the chart topping albums and singles?

"Well this show is your chance

to experience the UK's number one concert show."

He adds modestly: "Dancing kings and queens, have the time of your lives with the all-time greatest party-time extravaganza."

The show plays at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury on July 11, Margate's Winter Gardens on August 13 and at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells on September 16. Tickets on sale now.

Take a stroll for flowers

THE White Cliffs Countryside Partnership will be leading an afternoon guided walk to discover the wild flowers of Folkestone Warren today (Sunday). It meets at 2pm outside the East Cliff Pavilion.



Bacharach is celebrated

A SHOW celebrating one of the greatest songwriters of a generation, Burt Bacharach rolls into the Churchill Theatre, Bromley on Wednesday (June 22).

His hits are performed by three West End singers accompanied by a live 10-piece band.

Tickets are available now.

Have a go at Pickleball

FAST growing sport Pickleball is teaming up with the Turner Contemporary in Margate, featuring US Open star Sheena Maclean-Bell (right). It ties up with the Seeing Round Corners exhibition on July 18.



See green-fingered sites

GET a rare chance to see some of the finest gardens in a picturesque village this weekend at the Smarden Open Gardens event.

Running Saturday and Sunday, visitors will also get the chance to climb the 14th century church clocktower. All proceeds go towards the upkeep of the church. For details 01233 770182.



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Moonlight meadows fun

LULLINGSTONE Country Park will be marking National Meadows Day on July 2.

From 7.30pm there will be star gazing, moth trapping, bat walks and more. Contact Mary Tate on 03000 414833.



Medium Tony's big night

MEDIUM Tony Stockwell will be trying to make contact with the deceased as his stage show returns to Margate later this year.

The psychic will be performing at the Winter Gardens on November 23 starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £18.50 or £21 for the front five rows.

Free seaside bike hire

THANET residents can take advantage of a free bike hire service from Margate's Main Sands, organised by Motiv8 Sports as part of the Tesco Charity Partnership's Let's Do This Campaign.



Castle's beautiful blooms

HEVER in Bloom showcases the glorious gardens at Hever Castle and runs from June 27 to July 3.

Organisers say one of the highlights will be one of the finest displays of roses in the county.

There will be workshops and a free guided tour of the picturesque gardens.

Festival creates a great Deal with strong line-up

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE award-winning Deal Festival of Music and Arts returns for its annual cultural knees up next month with a line-up it believes is bigger and better than ever.

Showcasing everything from classical music to opera, jazz to theatre, talks to walks and dance, it starts on July 1.

It was the winning entry in the Event of the Year category at the 2016 Kent Creative Awards.

Trumpet soloist and president of the Deal Festival, Alison Balsom, explained: "This has been a remarkable year for the festival and I have every confidence it will just keep getting better."

"This is a wonderful festival for Deal, for east Kent, for the south east and for the UK as a whole and I am sure we will continue to see record-breaking attendance from all parts of the country this year."

The opening concert on July 1 features the European Union Chamber Orchestra, who will be joined by four young musicians from



the area to play Two Wings and a Prayer by composer Jane Wells.

The orchestra will play works by Mozart, Bach and Tchaikovsky and will be joined by Guy Johnston, a BBC Young Musician finalist and receiver of Classical Brit Award who will play Haydn Cello Concerto No 1.

On July 2, Freddy Kempf, one of today's most successful pianists, and a former winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year, will perform. His programme will include works by Beethoven, Chopin and the

Tchaikovsky's The Seasons.

The following day, the festival will be at The Turner Contemporary in Margate – as part of their major exhibition Seeing Round Corners. The festival will create a gallery of contemporary dance and music with Trinity Laban Contemporary Dance and percussionist Joby Burgess with flautist Stina Dawes, pictured.

A special children's event will take place at The Astor on July 3 with The Krazykats Theatre Company. See dealfestival.co.uk.



KIDS: Krazykats' children's show



STAR: Freddy Kempf

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Climbing the ladder to successful concealment

How choosing the right blooms can act as the perfect way to hide or decorate your home and garden

DO YOU have a tall space you'd like to fill with fragrant blooms? Or perhaps an eyesore you want to mask?

The answer may be in a carefully chosen climbing plant, whether it's roses around the door or velvet blue wisteria dripping from the house wall, fragrant sweet peas in a pot to enjoy as soon as you open the patio door or an arbour covered in the saucer-sized clematis blooms.

When early-flowering perennials such as lupins are flagging, many climbers may be coming into their own.

Clematis and roses form a perfect combination for focal-point obelisks in borders.

Striped clematis are a good choice

for shadier areas in the garden. They bloom in late spring, but produce another crop of flowers in summer, ideal to brighten up a dull corner. No pruning is needed unless they outgrow their allotted space, they then can be cut back immediately after the first crop of flowers.

Other clematis will prolong the season of interest. Late-flowering C. viticella varieties happily scramble through spring and summer-flowering shrubs such as philadelphus and syringe and will flower well into autumn, long after the flowers of the shrubs have faded.

Ivies are often unfairly dismissed as dull, but take a look at Hedera 'Buttercup' and 'Sulphur Heart' with their fresh summer foliage and you will have



DECORATE: Plants can border doors to fabulous effect

to think again. Try growing them on trellis screens with their foliage wound in and out of the holes - they make excellent screens for unattractive compost heaps and recycling bins.

The soft green foliage and eye-catching flowers of clematis make them favourites for breaking up the outline of trellis fencing, while vigorous plants such as Vitis coignetiae will hide eyesores such as sheds or ugly walls, cloaking them in large, heart-shaped leaves which turn into a fiery mix of blood-red and yellow in the autumn.

In fact, foliage climbers can really play their part in the garden. Ivies are often unfairly dismissed as dull but take a look at Hedera 'Buttercup' and 'Sulphur Heart' with their fresh summer foliage

and you will have to think again.

Try growing them on trellis screens with their foliage wound in and out of the holes - they make excellent screens for unattractive compost heaps and recycling bins.

Make a doorway inviting by adorning it with a Chilean potato tree (Solanum crispum 'Glasnevin'), whose purple-blue flowers last from summer to autumn, or an ornamental vine, which will provide a spectacular red foliage finale in autumn.

Annual climbers like the exotic Cobaea scandens, the cup and saucer plant, and the fabulous blue trumpets of morning glory, Ipomoea tricolor planted in pots and grown up a tripod of bamboo canes, can be popped into any gaps that appear in borders.

One World Day events

TONBRIDGE will host an afternoon of fun and music when One World Day is staged outside the Angel Centre on June 26.

Running between noon and 3pm, there will be international musicians, artists, games and stalls. Among them will be local samba band Bloco Fogo

It is hosted by Tonbridge Welcomes Refugees to mark national Refugee Week which runs June 20-26.

RoadTrip join line-up

BRITISH boyband RoadTrip have been announced as the support act for this year's Stone Fete on July 3.

The band will support headliners S Club Party, Booty Luv and Big Brovaz.

The boyband has a local connection as band member Brooklyn lives in the parish.

He also attended the Wilmington Academy. A competition on the fete's Facebook site offers fans the chance to meet the group.

Festival at Mote Park

CHAS n Dave, the Hoosiers, Diversity and the Lightning Seeds are all on the line-up for next weekend's Big Day Out festival at Maidstone's Mote Park.

The event, which runs over Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26, also features a children's area with a host of entertainment including the Brighton Circus School, Peppa Pig, soft archery and Paw Patrol. For details see bigdayoutfestival.com.

Sea Power a sell-out

BRITISH Sea Power's gig at The Forum in Tunbridge Wells this week has already proved a sell-out.

The band play the popular venue on Wednesday, June 22.

They shot to fame in 2003 with debut the Decline of British Sea Power and followed it up with top 15 albums Open Season in 2005 and 2008's follow-up Do You Like Rock Music.

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We are delighted to announce the launch of the Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards 2016



Headline
Sponsor



NOMINATIONS are now being invited for the 2016 Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards. The awards dinner will take place at Ashford International Hotel on October 17 from 6.30pm to midnight.

The prestigious awards, which launched in 2013, are designed to champion, highlight and offer a showcase to the great and the good of the region's food and drink industry, including local producers and suppliers, small farming businesses, chefs, restaurants, pubs, cafes and hoteliers.

All will be people who care about the countryside and the future of our local environment.

The companies included will all be nominated by you, our Kent Life and Kent on Sunday readers.

We want to know if you've enjoyed a fantastic meal at your local pub or have been impressed by the produce

and service at your neighbourhood farmers' market or farm shop.

The nomination form is available here and will be repeated. It is also available to complete online at kentfda.co.uk, where you can read more about the awards and see pictures of last year's winners.

Entries close on August 7. Our handpicked panel of high-profile judges who all live or work in Kent will then select a shortlist, starting the independent judging process where finalists will be visited or interviewed to determine a worthy winner in each category.

All finalists will be invited to the prestigious awards ceremony, where they will enjoy a reception and three-course meal with wine before finding out if they are a winner.

This is our fourth Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards and we are immensely proud to be able to offer you once again the opportunity to reward and recognise

the deserving businesses within our local food and drink industry that go above and beyond expectations.

These awards are what you make of them so if you are the owner of a restaurant, a chef or local producer then spread the word among your clients, customers and visitors.

It takes no time at all to make your nomination. You can email, post or nominate online.

We are looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than simply the number of nominations received, so everybody is in with a chance no matter how big or small their business.

■ Don't forget to let us know when you have made your recommendation on our Twitter page @kentlife and @KOSMedia by using #kentfda – similarly, if you are looking for nominations, please use this hashtag

Kent Life and
Kent on Sunday
Food & Drink
Awards 2016
Nomination Form

Nominate your Kent food and drink favourites by using this form or email us at kentfda@archant.co.uk

Please post your entry form to:
Food & Drink Awards 2016.
Archant Kent,
Kent House, 81 Station Road,
Ashford TN23 1PP

Or you can email us at:
kentfda@archant.co.uk

Copies of the form and posters to
advertise your entry are available ___at
www.kent-life.co.uk and at
www.kentnews.co.uk.

The closing date for entries is
Sunday, August 7, 2016

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<p>Newcomer of the Year Sponsored by Clive Emson Land & Property auctioneers</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>Independent food or drink retailer of the Year Sponsored by Illuminate Skin Clinic</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>Cafe of the Year Sponsored by K Sports</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>
<p>Food Producer of the Year Sponsored by Motorline Maserati</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>Drinks Producer of the Year</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>Farm Shop of the Year</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>
<p>Farmers' Market of the Year Sponsored by Perry's Chartered Accountants</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>Pub of the Year Sponsored by Eastwell Manor</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>Restaurant of the Year Sponsored by The Foxhunter Park</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>
<p>Chef of the Year Sponsored by the Canterbury Auction Galleries</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>Customer Service of the Year Sponsored by Fenwick Canterbury</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>Kent Food & Drink Hero of the Year</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR



This popular category is open to anyone in the food and drink industry who has started a new venture within the last 18 months.

We want to know what impact they have made on the local community and if they have started to achieve any success further afield.

Are they helping to promote Kent food and drink to a new audience or have they found a new way to promote an old favourite?

INDEPENDENT FOOD OR DRINK RETAILER OF THE YEAR



This celebrates that special food or drink shop that we all treasure.

The retailer who includes wonderful local produce in their offering and knows where all their stock comes from to make that special link between field and plate.

Our winner will have a special 'must-have' range as well as making a real contribution to their local community.

Paying a visit to their shop will be a treat in itself.

CAFE OF THE YEAR



This category has changed from the previous Tea Shop of the Year to include places that also specialise in coffee! Tea and coffee shops are an integral

part of the Kent food and drink scene. Who makes the best tea and coffees, serves the nicest cakes and biscuits and the freshest scones? Are the sandwiches freshly cut and liberally filled?

Most importantly, are most of the ingredients locally sourced? We look forward to hearing your favourites.

FOOD PRODUCER OF THE YEAR



This category celebrates our local producers.

We are looking for someone who consistently provides both top quality local produce and service to their customers.

We are also keen to hear of any innovations.

If they're doing something new, we'd like to hear about it.

So if your local baker, grocer or farmer delights then please let us know.

DRINK PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

This category celebrates our local drink producers.

Whether it's gorgeous Kentish fizz or delicious juice, we want to find the producers who play such a vital role in the county's food and drink economy.

We want to know who you think makes the best drink, alcoholic or not, in the county, and what it is that makes it so special.

We are keen to hear of any innovations, so if they're doing something new, for example, introducing a fabulous new flavour, then we would like to all hear about it.

FARM SHOP OF THE YEAR

A good farm shop needs to have that extra-special something to tempt farmers away from their local supermarkets.

Are the staff friendly and knowledgeable, is the range of produce and the layout of an excellent standard, does your local farm shop offer a box scheme?

Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised on that farm, or nearby and if not would the owner be able to tell you where it is from?

Nominate your favourite farm shop now.

FARMERS' MARKET OF THE YEAR



The key to a good farmers' market is not only the range of produce and the quality of its stalls but also the principles that it supports - for example, does it work as a co-operative with other farmers? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable? Let us know so we can tell everyone the best place to go.

PUB OF THE YEAR



A good pub these days has to offer more than a warm welcome and excellent ale. We're looking for an inn that also offers delicious locally-sourced food, fantastic

customer service and real value for money. Pubs are genuinely the hub of their local community.

If you know a great one, even if it isn't your local, let us all know.

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR



The Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Restaurant of the Year needs to offer an incomparable

dining experience, from the ambience to the service and most importantly the food. Is it locally sourced? Do they support local producers and are they recognised on the menu? Do they have local as well as international wines and champagnes and can the staff tell you more if you ask?

CHEF OF THE YEAR



Kent is blessed with some outstanding chefs working in a fantastic array of restaurants. The Chef of the Year should be someone who has devoted him or herself to serving the best possible food. They'll demonstrate technical ability, use of seasonal ingredients, presentation of the food and an understanding of how flavours work together. Above all, we are looking for passion - that magic ingredient that defines true greatness in the kitchen.

CUSTOMER SERVICE OF THE YEAR



Most of our awards recognise customer

service in some form. This category celebrates this vital element for its own sake.

Do you know a person, organisation or establishment that offers fabulous service that goes above and beyond what you expect?

We all know excellent service when we have received it, now is your chance to get it recognised. If you know a person, company, producer, pub, shop or restaurant that is a delight to deal with, then let us know.

KENT FOOD AND DRINK HERO OF THE YEAR

Kent has a food and drink scene that is among the most vibrant in the UK - as you would expect from the Garden of England.

As well as being blessed with some of the final local produce around, the county also has a variety of fantastic eateries located in local towns and villages.

This category will be celebrating the individual who has made a positive impact on the county's food or drink community.

Do you know someone who goes the extra mile in order to help promote Kent to a wider audience?

Someone who has shown that they are passionate about local produce throughout?

Now is the chance for you to nominate your very own Kent Food and Drink hero and give them the recognition that they deserve.

Get in contact with us and let us know who you think would be a worthy winner.

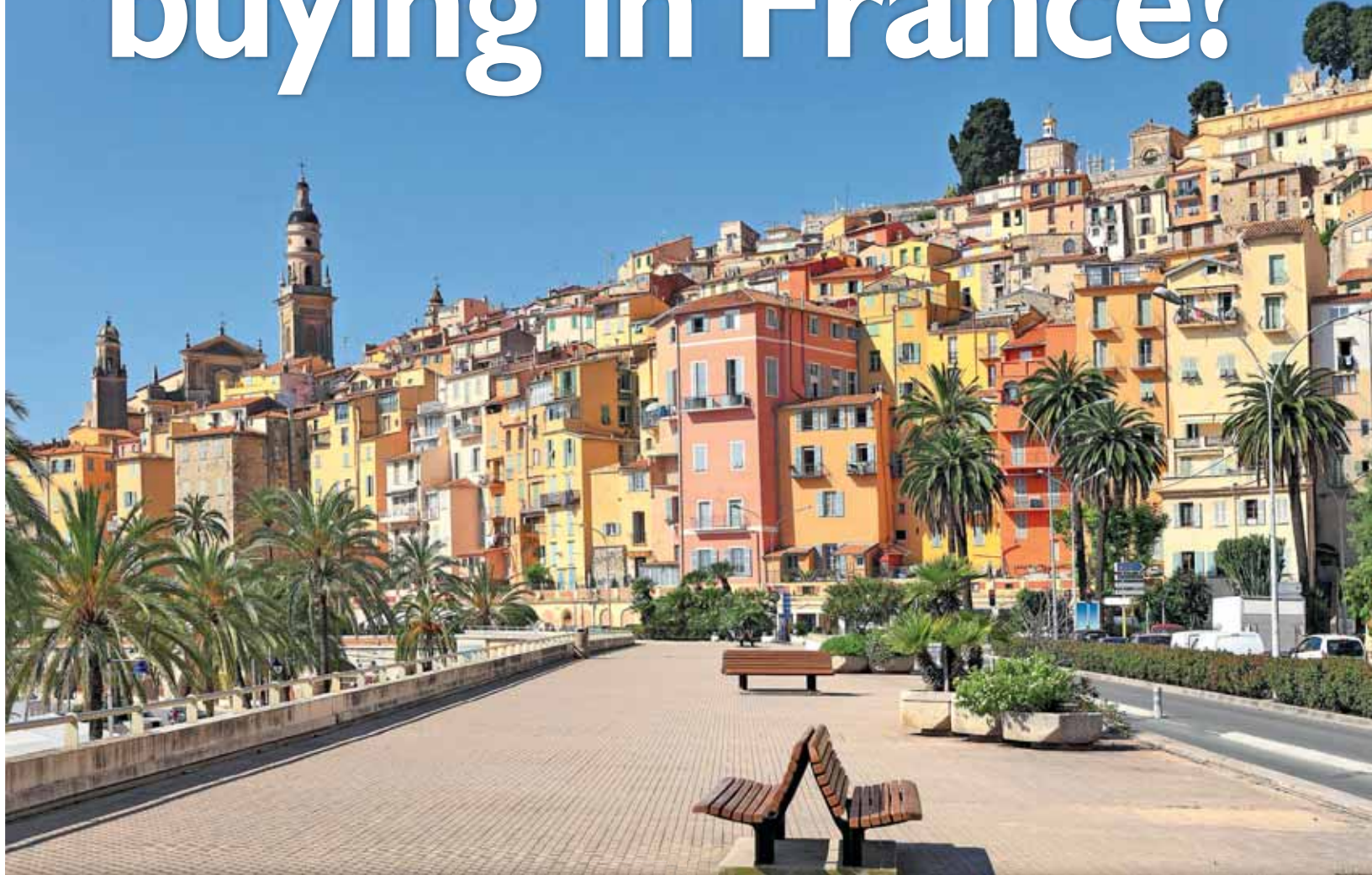
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BusinessFocus

RBS injects £90m into Dover port regeneration

THE Port of Dover's biggest ever single investment, the Dover Western Docks Revival, has received further backing from the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS).

RBS will provide a £90m loan to add to cash resources and long term debt finance agreements already available for the development of a new cargo terminal and distribution centre.

The port says it is a project that will transform the waterfront, including a new marina pier and curve to attract a host of shops, bars cafes and restaurants against the town's unique backdrop of the harbour, cliffs and castle.

It says the project will create hundreds of "high quality" employment opportunities for local people and supports its commitment to becoming the best in the world, so it can benefit both customers and the wider community.

Tim Waggott, chief executive at the Port of Dover, said: "This is the Port of Dover's biggest ever venture and as such is a costly endeavour.

"We need investment from other sources to be able to meet our ambi-



PROJECT: Plans to regenerate the Dover Western Docks

tions for the Dover Western Docks Revival project and are delighted that RBS have the confidence in the port, and our vision for Dover, to provide us with this financial assistance to continue to move forward towards completion."

John Redfern, head of corporate south east at RBS added: "It's fantas-

tic to be able to support a development that will have such a positive impact for the local community and builds Britain's maritime heritage and trade globally."

The port project is part of a wider regeneration strategy in Dover, including the St James retail and leisure development.

Motoring legend John Surtees to open B2B event

NORTH Kent B2B will host a lively panel session on June 29 at Buckmore Park, Chatham, featuring updates from both Paul Spooner, chief executive, Ebbsfleet Development Corporation and Rob Bennett, chairman, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership.

The third of the Kent B2B events this year organised by the Kent In-victa Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Caxtons Chartered Surveyors, it will be opened by motorsport legend, John Surtees.

The event includes a free business breakfast hosted by Will Wood from 'The Organised Business', speed networking sessions and a VIP networking lunch.

There will also be special EU referendum discussion hosted by Crowe Clark Whitehill. Get Social Kent will be back too, offering all the latest news from the digital and social media sectors. Come along and meet our



PANEL: The session is on June 29

60 Best of Kent exhibitors, listen to our expert keynote speaker, Ian Hughes inspiring us to 'Speak Up: The Power of Speaking Well'.

Book your free ticket today to receive a complimentary welcome coffee and entry into a draw for free entry to the B2B Challenge Trophy, sponsored by NAG.



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Don't let RNLI be border force

THE RNLI is a magnificent humanitarian organisation devoted to saving lives at sea for nearly 200 years.

It acts without question when the need arises, whether through inclement weather, acts of God, or the foolishness or unawareness of those defying the elements.

It is manned by mostly unpaid volunteers who put their own lives at risk. It must not be taken advantage of by the government as a proxy border force for rescuing or facilitating the passage of increasing numbers of economic migrants being smuggled across the English Channel.

Terry Cload,
 Pembury

Could this be last word on EU?

THE EU – by the end of this week the result will be known.

During the course of the campaign two main issues emerged – the economy and immigration. They are both of course important, but the economy, despite political interference, tends for the most part to take care of itself and the fact about immigration, which the Remain camp cannot dispel, is that if we choose to stay in the EU, we cannot control the numbers.

However, despite their importance, neither are my main reason for deciding to vote 'Leave'. I base my decision on history. No organisation of countries; whether formed out of battles, conquests and wars, or agreements pacts and treaties, has survived, and it is my belief that the EU will be no exception.

In 50 years or less the EU will cease to exist and (if successful in the referendum) those who voted Remain, who are still around then, will be faced with the consequences.

What those in the Remain camp who are aware of it, but are disinclined to reveal, is that Italy has already passed the point where it cannot repay its huge debt and France and Spain are heading the same way (hence the civil unrest in the former and the failure to form a lasting government in the latter).

These countries will eventually be requiring 'bail-outs' and all the PM's so called 'reforms' will count for nothing. If the UK is still a member of the EU, we will be expected to contribute. After all, why wouldn't we be? We are

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Don't mock the wise old Prince Philip

I HAVE to take exception to your comments [Kos, editorial, last week] relating to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in particular. Do I detect a hint of sarcasm?

I was lucky enough to be in the presence of the Duke of Edinburgh when as a second year student nurse he visited the Royal Victoria Hospital on July 14, 1948, to both commend our matron Miss M Crowther on her being awarded the MBE for her service and commitment during the severe shelling of the town and the hospital in which two members of staff were killed and the extra intake of so many wounded servicemen.

He particularly asked if any members of the Royal Navy were on male surgical, where I was working. There were and he was taken to them.

One man had been on the same ship at the same time and while in contact with the enemy. There were roars of laughter as all three men talked of the war and service aboard ship.

By the looks on matron's face he was going over his time but he charmed her and us, even asking us if we enjoyed nursing.

Later after lunch we who were off duty were talked to by himself and his aide-de-camp in the hospital grounds.

He is no buffoon, knows his place but like all sailors has a good sense of humour. Coming from a long line of Naval men I think he has sometimes to say what he thinks because he likes to provoke the press.

The Queen may have had all the advantages of her position but many of us now reaching our final years are having to turn to private medical care if we can afford it. I worked for the NHS almost 30 years and enjoyed every minute but no longer, it's a mess through bureaucratic interference and mismanagement not lack of funds.

Daphne Claw
 via email

currently one of the most successful economies in the EU.

We've been told by the Remain camp that all so called 'experts' say we should stay in the EU. Well, no surprise there. We are a net contributor to the EU and they know the EU desperately needs to have continued access to the UK's money.

We also have Jeremy Corbyn showing lukewarm support for continued membership by saying we should stay in a 'reformed EU', as if it's already reformed. Well, get this Mr Corbyn (and sorry, Ray Duff too) it ain't going to happen! Finally now we have the

allegedly 'politically toxic' David Cameron, in such a state of panic he's threatening pensioners with the loss of various currently 'protected benefits'.

Thus speaks a PM who was born after the war. If he thinks that people who survived the war years and all the austerity, deprivation and rationing are going to be cowed into obedience by such a scaremongering tactic, he has seriously misread the will and resolve of such people to reclaim their country.

Christopher Hudson-Gool,
 Maidstone

Oh no, there's still more...

IT really does defy belief, with parliament costing £498m a year and the House of Lords another £93m to run this country, those like Keith Taylor [Kos letters, last week] still think we need to pay another £350m a week to the EU, to lose half our fishing rights, lose the ability to make our own laws, control our own borders and control our own destiny and to be run by 27 other countries all because they supposedly provide us with legislation that has and should come from Westminster.

Are these people mad?

They see all the pangs of the dying EU experiment and then think, "yes, we'll have some of that, much better than democracy and the rule of our parliament". The MPs with the same mindset are like turkeys voting for Christmas and quislings of the highest order.

Phil Granger,
 West Malling

Manston will fly again one day

IN reply to T Jones of Broadstairs [Kos, letters, last week], Manston Airport has always been a productive, successful airport since the 1960s.

Its demise is totally related to Thanet District Council (TDC) not taking over from the Ministry of Defence and allowing 'property developers' to purchase it in the 1980s and allowing non aviation owners to sit on this land hoping TDC will eventually let housing development take place.

We need Manston Airport to be developed as a 21st century regional airport, bringing jobs, companies and badly needed transport to this part of England; something that RiverOak is trying to get organised, despite TDC and it's dysfunctional councillors.

Pauline Hayfield,
 Cliftonville

Manston should never fly again

WELL said T Jones! The relentless banging of the Manston drum by those convinced it can blossom as a thriving airport needs to stop.

Infratid had it on the market for ages before Ann Gloag bought it. If it really had such potential, why did someone not buy it then?

J Bond
 Birchington

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.



Wrotham steam rally by Graham Read, Rochester

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16 September, 2016 • Quote: W19-KOS

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Friday 4 Nov, 2016 & 6 Jan, 2017 - Quote: TG11-KOS

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Free Drinks
Entertainment
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Marty Wilde

Spring Back to the 60s Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

Friday, 10 March, 2017 - Quote: PP3-KOS

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INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks and mixers • Entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - club upgrade available • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • Free Parking

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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CITY STAR: the Picanto



COMING SOON: the Niro crossover



NEWEST ADDITION: the latest Sportage

Kia's lucky number is - seven

BRAND UPDATE: The Korean marque is going from strength to strength and is now a genuine mainstream player – as the new Sportage proves...

S EVEN is reckoned to be a lucky number and it's been a winner for Kia. From the moment it launched the first Ceed family hatchback in 2007, sweetened with a seven-year/100,000-mile warranty, the Korean marque has leapt from value brand to genuine mainstream player.

This warranty – extended to all new Kia models following the Ceed – has yet to be beaten or even matched by any other brand on the UK market. Most rivals settle for a lesser vote of confidence in their products – three years and 60,000 miles.

For those who worry about image more than the nitty-gritty of a deal though, Kia also pulled another stroke by hiring design guru Peter Schreyer, the man acclaimed for the original Audi TT.

His breakthrough car for Kia was the audacious third generation Sportage SUV, which became the brand's UK best seller and recruiting sergeant. Its successor, launched earlier this year, is following suit and has helped Kia set new records on UK monthly sales this year.

Kia models are usually replaced on a five-year cycle, guaranteeing freshness to the line-up; the new Sportage echoes its predecessor while looking neater and more upmarket.

AN MPV WITH RARE STYLE: the Carens



It is little brother to the seven-seat Sorento – a cut-price rival to the Volvo XC90 – and both Kia SUVs will be joined soon by a smaller sibling, the Niro crossover.

The current second generation Ceed is another star, good looking in five-door, Sportwagon estate, or racy three-door Proceed mode. The Schreyer-led design team also

sidestepped the frumpy MPV look with its Carens seven-seater. The quirky Soul is another clever design, described variously as urban crossover, chunky MPV, and family holdall.

And Kia's bargain buys are the compact Picanto city car and sleek Rio supermini, both offered in three and five-door formats, plus the versatile Venga junior MPV.



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Representative Example Renault CLIO Play 1.2 16V 75

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the cars shown are: urban 39.2 (7.2)–47.1 (6); extra-urban 60.1 (4.7)–62.8 (4.5); combined 51.4 (5.5)–55.4 (5.1). The official CO₂ emissions are 127–114g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO₂ may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

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Book a test-drive

Captur - is there a more stylish crossover?

Renault's junior crossover drives well and exhibits the brand's renowned 'chic' – that styling 'je ne sais quoi' that we love writes **Steve Loader...**

It took French motor marques a while to 'get' SUVs and crossovers and the styling of some early efforts was questionable, but we've had several successes now.

I like the practicality of the Peugeot 2008, for instance, even if the styling is dodgy and, while it tries to defy pigeonholing, the Citroen C4 Cactus is both practical and attractive.

But the Renault Captur has really nailed it. It is good to drive, with great engines, notably the smooth and punchy dCi 110 diesel tested here.

But it is that Renault 'chic' – that styling 'je ne sais quoi' – that really makes the difference. So, instead of revelling in the ugliness of the whole crossover/SUV genre – as the Juke from Renault's sister brand, Nissan, does so disgracefully – the Captur embraces and civilises it.

It wears a sporting nose well with its jacked-up appearance, enhanced by exaggerated side sills that Renault designers also used to great effect on the Clio.

Renault has made it very customisable too, with contrasting roofs as well as the expected plethora of alloy wheel choices and so on. Family



buyers will particularly like a £100 optional feature: seat covers that can be unzipped and washed or even swapped for another set.

Despite wide-set looks and above average ground clearance, the Captur is also compact – it has a footprint only slightly larger than the closely-related Clio.

The ability to pilot it around car parks easily is then enhanced by light steering and a loftier driving position within an airy cabin featuring clever storage options.

Sliding rear seats also allow boot space/rear legroom to be balanced according to need.

Out on the road the Captur has a



typically French ability to glide comfortably, except for occasional crashes on an equally typical British rural lane ravaged by winter.

Surprisingly though, for a high-riding softly sprung vehicle, the Captur does not lean extravagantly on the bends – no doubt helped by the weight-saving

Renault Captur Dynamique Nav dCi 110

Price:	from £18,075
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	Mazda CX-3

techniques used for the car.

Three engines are offered: two turbocharged petrol units of 89 and 119bhp and a 1.5-litre turbodiesel with outputs of 89 or 109bhp. All have sufficient clout for the deceptively light Captur and feature stop-start plus switchable eco mode fuel and emissions saving technology, though the more powerful of the diesel options – as tested here – would be my choice for its balance of power (0-62mph in 11 seconds) with economy (76.4mpg combined).

My one caveat would be that the car's interior has not aged as well as the exterior since the car's launch in 2013; in comparison, the design is ordinary and the hard and durable plastics used tend to emphasise why the Captur is priced so competitively – maybe one to address at facelift time, Renault?



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Fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) for the Kia 'SR7' models shown: Urban 44.8 (6.3) – 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2) – 76.3 (3.7), Combined 56.5 (5.0) – 67.3 (4.2), CO₂ emissions 115 – 109g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Available between 01/04/16 and 30/06/16 inclusive. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition of the vehicle. Excess mileage charge 14.9p per mile. Subject to status. T&Cs apply. 18s or over. Guarantee may be required. Kia Finance RHI 1SR. Models shown: Kia Picanto 'SR7' 5-door 1.0 65bhp 5-speed manual at £9,045 including £1,000 customer saving (Non offer price £10,045); Kia Rio 'SR7' 3-door 1.25 84bhp 5-speed manual at £10,845 including £1,000 customer saving (Non offer price £11,845); New Kia cee'd 'SR7' 5-door 1.4 CRDi 89bhp 6-speed manual at £16,140 including £900 customer saving. (Non offer £17,040). Customer savings vary by model derivative. Specification is subject to change without notice. *Kia Care-3 for £99 must be activated within 30 days of vehicle registration. Care-3 is the Kia Servicing Package that covers recommended manufacturers servicing. T&Cs apply. Offer not available with any other offer. Offers not available in The Isle of Man or Channel Islands. Retail sales only, (excluding Personal Contract Hire). Details correct at time of going to press. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For full terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk. The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and owned by the Bluetooth SIG, Inc.

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003:

Application for Premises Licence

Rokka Limited of Rokka, 64 Harbour Parade, Ramsgate CT11 8LN has applied to Thanet District Council, P.O. Box 9, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent for the Grant of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003.

A copy of the application may be inspected during normal office hours at the Thanet District Council offices, address above.

The licensable activities will be: Supply of Alcohol from 10:00 to 03:00hrs from Sunday to Wednesday, from 10:00 to 03:45hrs from Thursday to Saturday and from 10:00hrs to 03:45hrs on Bank Holiday Sundays, Christmas Eve and Boxing Day and to celebrate St. Valentine's and Halloween; Films, Live and Recorded Music and Performances of Dance from 23:00 to 03:00hrs from Sunday to Wednesday, from 23:00 to 03:45hrs from Thursday to Saturday and from 23:00hrs to 03:45hrs on Bank Holiday Sundays, Christmas Eve and Boxing Day and to celebrate St. Valentine's and Halloween; Late Night Refreshment from 23:00 to 03:30hrs from Sunday to Wednesday, from 23:00 to 04:00hrs from Thursday to Saturday and from 23:00hrs to 04:00hrs on Bank Holiday Sundays, Christmas Eve and Boxing Day and to celebrate St. Valentine's and Halloween. One extra hour for all Activities at the end of the regulated period on the occasion of the change to British Summer Time (BST). All Licensable activities to continue on New Year's Eve from the end of Permitted Hours to the beginning of Permitted hours on New Year's Day.

Any representations in respect of the application should be made in writing to the Licensing Department, Thanet District Council, P.O. Box 9 Cecil Street, Margate, Kent by 8th July 2016.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009

APPLICATION FOR THAMES ESTUARY CHANNEL DREDGE AND DISPOSAL

Notice is hereby given that Port of London Authority has applied to the Marine Management Organisation under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Part 4, for a marine licence to undertake maintenance dredge and disposal of the Thames Estuary Channel. Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Sheerness Library, 38-42 High Street, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 1NL. Copies of the application and associated information may be viewed on line in the Public Register at www.gov.uk/check-marine-licence-register.

Representations or objections in respect of the application should be made in writing, giving an address to which correspondence relating to the representation or objection may be sent, to the Marine Management Organisation, Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7YH, or alternatively emailed to consents@marinemangement.org.uk, within 28 days of 16th June 2016, quoting reference MLA/2016/00145.

The Marine Management Organisation will pass to the applicant a copy of any objection or representation we receive.

Kent County Council

Report of Local Government Ombudsman

The Local Government Ombudsman has issued a report following its investigation of a complaint against Kent County Council. The complaint was that Kent County Council did not consider the complainant's need to work when assessing her disabled child's care needs and that the Council's Direct Payment policy did not allow for sufficient consideration of the circumstances of each case. As a result of this case, Kent County Council has agreed to revise the wording in the Direct Payments policy.

The Council was also found to have delayed in responding to the complaint. The Ombudsman found that there had been fault on the part of the Council which had caused injustice to the complainant.

Copies of the report will be available for public inspection during normal office hours at: Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ for four weeks starting 16 June 2016. Anyone is entitled to take copies of the report or extracts from it. Copies will be supplied at a reasonable charge.

LICENSING ACT 2003:

Application for Premises Licence

Take notice that Clive Puddy has made an application in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 for a new premises licence for Adjacent 47 Railway Street Chatham ME4 4RP. The application is to: enable sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises (11am – 11pm).

This application has been made to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR. Full details of the application and plans can be viewed at Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR during normal hours of business.

Any interested party who wishes to make a representation about this application should do so in writing to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR or by sending an email to licensing@medway.gov.uk. No later than 7th July 2016.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application which, upon conviction, carries a maximum fine of £5,000.

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Billings goes back to basics for Kent

His good form has put him back in the England T20 frame

Cricket

By Mark Pennell

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SAM Billings says going back to basics has been the key to his recent good form.

As England's selectors consider who will feature in their T20 squad for the upcoming matches against Sri Lanka, the Kent batsman caught the eye on the field.

The 24-year-old posted an unbeaten half-century in front of the Sky Sports cameras to help steer Spitfires to a T20 Blast win against Hampshire before a scintillating unbeaten 106 in Kent's One-Day Cup clash with Glamorgan.

Fresh from his 53-ball hundred against the Welsh county – the second 50 of which came off just 17 balls – Billings conceded that he is delighted to have found his form at the right time.

"Perhaps I just needed a bit of luck to kick start me," he said, referring to the let off when Glamorgan's Michael Hogan dropped him at mid-off when on 27.

"It's a funny game like that, you get a life, play a few shots and get on a roll. It feels like a bit of fun once you get into that sort of flow.

"The trick for me now is to continue this form and keep putting some scores on the board."

Keen to add to his 11 England caps, Billings, admits he put too much pressure on himself following a winter spent with the England World Cup squad and playing in the Pakistan Super League as well as for IPL franchise Delhi Daredevils.

"Looking back now, that first



FORM: Kent's Sam Billings

week I came back to Kent from the IPL I was a different person," said the former Haileybury School pupil.

"With ODIs coming up and the potential squads to be announced I was putting so much pressure on myself. I was itching to do well that I forgot to play my own game.

"Top-level athletes in any sport will tell you that putting pressure on yourself is your own biggest enemy.

"So, in recent matches I've gone back to basics, gone back to enjoying the game and that mindset seems to have worked for me."

Scally slams controversial EFL Trophy verdict

Football

GILLINGHAM have slammed the EFL's decision to allow Premier League B teams to enter the competition formerly known as the Johnstone's Paint Trophy and revealed chairman Paul Scally voted against the plans at last week's annual general meeting.

The competition, now operating under the name of EFL Trophy, will be extended to 64 teams, with sides from 16 of the 21 category one academies invited to join League One and League Two clubs.

In a change from the current knock-out format, there will be 16 regional groups of four for the opening round.

A number of clubs released



OPPOSED: Paul Scally

statements announcing their disapproval and the Gills are the latest to join that list.

A spokesperson said: "That the competition offers teams the chance to play a cup final at Wembley Stadium means it's one the majority of clubs take seriously.

"However, we do not believe the introduction of Premier League B teams and development squads will incentivise more fans to attend matches, nor do we feel the trophy's worth will be increased by these changes, even if it is currently only a one season trial.

"Removing any historical sponsorship deals, the competition is the Football League Trophy; by default, it should only be open to Football League clubs."

Elsewhere, the club made two signings this week, bringing in Irish midfielder Mark Byrne and Billy Knott from Bradford City.

Hennon says Glasgow defeat 'felt like a win'

SNODLAND welterweight George Hennon says losing his first professional fight has given him more confidence and the lessons learned meant it "felt like a win", ahead of his return to the ring next month.

The 21-year-old's fifth pro bout takes place at Grays Civic Hall in Essex on July 1 when he faces Plymouth's Ross Roberts over four rounds.

And he says defeat against Scottish fighter Sam Ball in front of the Sky Sports cameras in Glasgow at the end of May has in fact made him stronger.

Hennon said: "The last fight helped massively, I didn't realise how much it would help but it gave me so much confidence.

"That fight, for me, put my name out there and the reaction I've had from people messaging me that I don't even know has been brilliant.

"Even though I lost, it feels like a win.

"The main thing that I found out is what weight I really am in that bout," he said.



LEARNING: George Hennon



HOME: Stonebridge Road

Fleet bring in Ireland U21 defender Connors

EBBSFLEET United manager Daryl McMahon has bolstered his ranks at Stonebridge Road with the signing of a Republic of Ireland U21 international.

Jack Connors, 21, has played for Dagenham & Redbridge for the past four years having graduated through their youth teams and counts an FA Cup tie at Goodison Park last season amongst his memorable moments.

After coming through the Fulham and Dagenham youth systems, the London-born full-back gained experience on loan with Hendon before making his debut for the Daggers in 2013.

He featured regularly in League Two over the next two years, making 56 appearances, before moving on to Boreham Wood on loan and helping them avoid relegation.

Wings star Williams flies nest

WELLING United full-back Barney Williams has left Park View Road and joined Braintree Town on a free transfer.

Williams, who was voted the club's player of the season, has joined the Essex outfit following Welling's relegation from the National League earlier this year, despite having a year remaining on his existing deal.

Wings boss Mark Goldberg told the

club's official website: "Barney deserves an opportunity to play at the highest level possible.

"Therefore we didn't want to stand in his way and we wish him well at Braintree."

The defender will be reunited with Jamie Day at Braintree, who brought him into the Wings first team via Cambridge United's London satellite academy.

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